

Hafa Adai!

Woman allegedly beats up cashier. **PAGE**  
Sports car falls into ditch in Marpi, 1 injured. **PAGE 8**

# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

## FBI makes an arrest in bldg. search

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_deletorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_deletorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has disclosed that Thursday's search at a Garapan building was against two companies and that it also made an arrest in response to the recent death of a worker at the construction site of Imperial Pacific Resort.

### » **Search conducted over recent death of worker at construction site, allegations of harboring out-of-status individuals**

FBI spokesperson Michele Ernst said on Saturday that their investigation is related to allegations of a federal violation of the workplace visa system, including reports the company was systematically harboring individuals who are out-of-status and in violation of federal statutes.

**See FBI on Page 4**

## Casino awaits clearance to open doors



The grand entrance of Imperial Pacific Resort is all set to welcome its guests as soon as the company gets the necessary clearance from the agencies that would issue certificates of compliance and safety.

By JON PEREZ  
[jon\\_perez@saipantribune.com](mailto:jon_perez@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The casino floor of Imperial Pacific Resort is all set to open to the gaming

public. The final clearances and permits from the Department of Public Works are the only things its officials are waiting for.

The casino hotel is Imperial Pacific

International (CNMI) LLC's multi-million-dollar project on Saipan. They hope to attract high rollers from the Asia-Pacific region with world-

**See CASINO on Page 4**

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### LOCAL

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### LOCAL

The island of stone money is sending top students to a robotics competition.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The mother and family of the late CNMI probation officer John Peter Duenas Del Rosario pose for a group photo with U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, CNMI Judiciary judges, justices, employees, and federal and local probation officers during the memorial ceremony to honor Del Rosario at the CNMI Supreme Court on Friday afternoon.

# 4th Anniversary for the Kagman Community Health Center

# Health Fair

*Event for all Ages  
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**WHAT:** KCHC 4th Year Anniversary/  
Health Fair

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 8, 2017

**WHERE:** Kagman Community Health  
Center Grounds, Lemmai  
Wy., Kagman II Homestead

**TIME:** 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**FREE:**

- Blood Pressure Screening
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## Local

### Judiciary honors Del Rosario

The CNMI Judiciary held a memorial ceremony in the Supreme Court to honor probation officer II John Peter Duenas Del Rosario, who passed away last March 25 at the age of 37.

The Judiciary presented the family with memorial plaque and the CNMI flag in recognition of Del Rosario's "distinguished service in the pursuit of justice" as a probation officer since Nov. 1, 2004.

Del Rosario's mother, Rose, and his common-law wife, Darah L. Benavente, and their daughter, Aidin, were present at the ceremony. Other family members, relatives, friends, judges, justices, co-workers, and community leaders also attended the ceremony.

Rose, 57, said his son is the oldest of her six children.

"He [was] good. He [taught] his siblings how to respect. He guide[d] them in many ways," the tearful mother said in an interview.

Chief Probation Officer Ursula I. Lifoifo-Aldan said she can attest to the Judiciary and the Commonwealth that Del Rosario truly did the community justice.

"His dedication, compassion, professionalism and commitment to excellence providing public safety, court reports, rehabilitation, making offenders accountable and victims wholesome...cannot be said enough. He made big impact in people's services as an agent of change," Lifoifo-Aldan said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

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## Woman allegedly beats up cashier

A 49-year-old woman was arrested on Tinian on Friday for allegedly pulling the hair of a female cashier, choking her, and threatening to kill her.

The alleged victim complained of nausea and was vomiting.

Elisa Pangelinan Aquiningoc, 49, jobless, was first arrested last March 26 at 3:36am, but was released later that afternoon.

Aquiningoc, however, allegedly later went back to the store, tried to harass the cashier, and threatened to kill her. She was served with an arrest warrant shortly before noon Friday.

Aquiningoc made an initial appearance in Superior Court

on Friday afternoon. Her bail was set at \$5,000 cash. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as her counsel.

The victim called for police assistance last March 26 at 3:26am. She told two responding police officers that Aquiningoc came to the Huang Shun Supermarket to sell hot peppers, but got mad, pulled her hair, and choked her.

Police said a witness and footage of the store's surveillance camera corroborated the cashier's statement.

Aquiningoc was arrested at 3:36am that day and released that afternoon. She was told to stay away from the cashier.

The following day, the ca-

shier called the police again after Aquiningoc returned to the store, allegedly made a motion to throw bottled water at her, and threatened to kill her.

Aquiningoc also allegedly called the victim on the phone and threatened to kill her if she sees her outside.

In a police interview, Aquiningoc admitted pulling the cashier's hair and choking her, saying the cashier "showed her attitude."

The cashier denied this, saying Aquiningoc was messing with the box of bread in the store. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## "A Tradition of Excellence!"

Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.

- Received a CNMI House Resolution, "for conducting the CNMI's first Corneal Transplant"
- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

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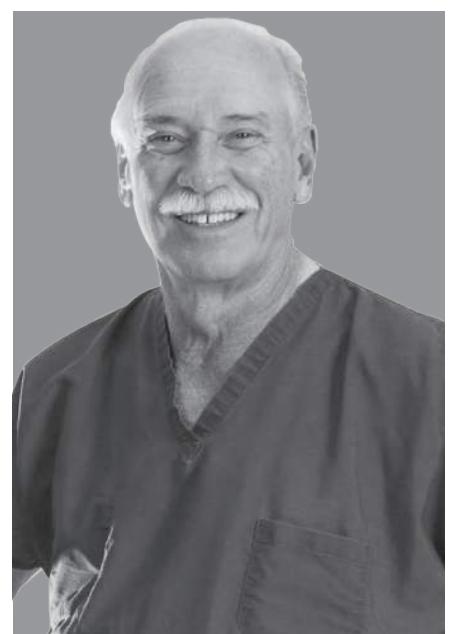
- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
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## 2017 Congressional Art Competition now open

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—High school students of the Northern Mariana Islands are being invited to join the annual Congressional Art Competition. The winner of the Marianas contest will have her or his artwork on display at the Capitol for one year, along with the works of students from the nation's 441 congressional districts.

"The Congressional Art Competition was created by Congress in 1982 to encourage high school students with a passion for the visual arts to develop and showcase their talent," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). "In 2017, we mark the ninth year of Marianas students participating in this national art project. I look forward to seeing many more examples of the outstanding abilities of our young artists this year, once again."

Sablan is a member of the Arts Caucus in the House of Representatives.

The competition is open to high school students from grades 9 through 12. The contest is free to join, and there

is no specific theme. Artwork may be submitted to the congressional district offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting Monday, April 3 until Friday, April 28, at 5pm.

Artwork must be two-dimensional, and no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, including the frame. Framed pieces should weigh no more than 15 lbs.

Submissions will be judged based on originality, technical difficulty, creativity, communication, effectiveness, and overall appearance. A panel of local artists will select the winning entry.

Contest guidelines and student release forms are available at <https://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/art-competition>. For more information, contact the congressional office at (670) 323-2647 or [Kilili@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kilili@mail.house.gov). (PR)

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<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>Korean with Bibimbap</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>Chamolinian with BBQ</b></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Japanese with Shabu-Shabu</b></p>
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## 'Heroes to Teachers' no longer funded next FY

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
 erwin\_encinaires@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

As fiscal year 2018 creeps closer, the Public School System prepares to lose at least one program under Title V of the 2002 No Child Left

Behind Act.

Title V of the NCLB mandates PSS to use funding for promoting informed parental choice and innovative programs. One of such programs under Title V, the Heroes to Teachers program,

is getting hit as the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act is implemented in fiscal year 2018 this Oct. 1, 2017.

The ESSA changes NCLB's Title V to the "state innovation and local flexibility," which allows for

funding transferability, a pilot program for weighted student funding, and a hefty amount of funds for rural education programs up to 2020.

PSS secures funding through consolidated grants to fund for programs under NCLB's Title V, which include the Heroes to Teachers program

(\$546,773), student competitions (\$235,945), community education (\$185,578), Advanced Placement programs (\$78,510), and accreditation programs (\$84,443), and totals a little over \$1.1 million of the \$12.42 million of consolidated grants PSS received in fiscal 2017.

"Human resource has already sent out a memo to [the 16, formerly 23, participants of the Heroes to Teachers program] explaining to them that there are other positions available in PSS. We can no longer federally fund them as the Heroes to Teachers program," PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh told Board of Education members during a meeting last Friday.

To compensate for the cut, Title I of NCLB, which is used for "improving the academic achievement of the disadvan-

taged" is transformed into "improving basic programs operated by state and local educational agencies."

"It was decided to increase Title I," said Thornburgh.

The new ESSA Title I provides an increase in funding tools, including an estimated \$5.1 million increase for PSS.

The increase for Title I, however, is not without a catch.

"[The increase takes effect] provided U.S. Congress passes a budget and keeps an increase in Title I," said Thornburgh.

In an interview, Thornburgh confirmed with reporters that PSS is losing the ability to consolidate grants for the Heroes to Teachers program under Title V.

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

## CASINO

From Page 1

class gaming facilities.

The Department of Public Works is one of the agencies that are expected to issue clearance and compliance certificates—whether full or partial occupancy—before the casino can begin operations.

Scott Morrow, the Casino Table Games director, said they have been putting the finishing touches to their mass gaming floor, all 140,000 square meters of it. The floor would feature a total of 72 tables—38 for VIP and 34 mass tables—and 198 slot machines.

"We're excited to get things started. We're waiting for the final permits and as soon as we receive it, we're going to make an announcement," Morrow told reporters on a tour of the facility on Friday night. "Our team is excited and ready. We're excited to get

things started and welcome our guests at the front door."

Morrow is making his fourth stop in heading the table games division of his 35-year gaming career. He previously worked in New Jersey, Las Vegas, and Macau.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which owns and operates the gaming facility, will have the mass gaming floor as its phase I of the casino. The second phase is expected to open within the next two to three months once they are given the green light.

The VIP level is part of IPI's Phase II expansion project that also includes a Sky Casino up on the 14th floor and the beach club casino lounge. As of now, VIP sections are in place and share space with their mass gaming floor.

"Phase II, level II is going to be our VIP area that is the core of our business. In the future, [Phase I] will be for our mass gaming floor only,"

added Morrow.

He said the ongoing construction of the hotel rooms won't be a problem once they open the casino floor. "We don't anticipate any problem. We're going to work through those phases and we're going to make sure our guests have a world-class experience every step of the way."

Morrow said the entire operations team has been trained and everything—the card cabinets, storage, chips, and other materials to be used by casino personnel—are all in place. They also have a membership team; guests can sign up for exclusive privileges for a more personal touch with their Imperial Pacific Resort experience.

### Grand design

A spacious hotel lobby would greet guests at the soon-to-be-opened hotel. A grand staircase, similar to European palaces, would lead to a ballroom that could fit more than 1,000

guests and is ideal for weddings and other events.

"We're going to have one of the most impressive casino lobbies in the world. Our staircase would lead up to the Grand Ballroom. We will have a lobby bar at the back and it will also be our entrance to our VIP villas. We're going to have two crystal dragons that are over 60 feet in the atrium area," said Morrow.

He said that he is honored to come to Saipan and work with the IPI team. "Coming to Saipan has been one of the best career decision I've made. It is an honor to be a member of [IPI's] leadership team and to work in this world-class resort."

Morrow added that he has embraced the local community since arriving on Saipan in August 2016. "I'm excited to be here and I'm all fired up. I want to be part of something that makes difference, and I believe this project will make a difference."

the community."

The additional funding provided by Public Law 1975, a law that appropriates funds to pay for delinquent utility bills, signaled Gov. Ralph DLG Torres advocating for CUC's direct purchase of a new engine.

According to the statement by the administration, the governor is closely monitoring the discussions of the board and hopes they take "action that will have the best interest of the ratepayers in mind and that offers transparency to the people."

## CUC

From Page 1

vice president.

The procurement of an engine to replace generator 8 at the CUC power plant has raised eyebrows, with secretive discussions among board members resulting in allegations of a possible conflict of interest.

According to CUC board member Joe Torres, generator 8 has not been working for eight years already.

The board allegedly

agreed to the "emergency" procurement after claiming that representatives of Imperial Pacific Resort had approached the CUC management to inform them of the resort's increased power demand in the upcoming weeks. Sources familiar with the matter said the emergency purchase bypassed CUC's Procurement and Supply Division altogether.

In an earlier interview, William Gilmore, deputy executive director for CUC, said the nominees were based on pre-

viously cancelled request for proposals, or RFP.

After further discussions behind closed doors, the CUC board voted to push through with the purchase of the engine, despite the unanswered questions of Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), who attended the CUC board meeting last Wednesday.

A statement from the Torres administration said the procurement of a new engine is supported by the administration, so long as the procurement was done "in a manner that is transparent to

the community."

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## FBI

From Page 1

Ernst did not provide other details.

When asked what company she was referring to, Ernst said yesterday that the search warrant was against MCC International and Belinda Overseas.

Ernst said she is not able to provide further comments.

"Court records will have to speak for themselves," she said, adding that it is inappropriate for her to comment beyond the official statement since this is an ongoing investigation.

There was no scheduled initial appearance hearing in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday and last Saturday. It is not clear if there will be such a hearing in federal

court today, Monday, about the arrested person.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the FBI searched Thursday the second floor of Kase II Building, a two-story commercial building in Garapan.

Imperial Pacific declined to comment on the matter, aside from clarifying that: "The FBI visit was for the contractor's office but not IPI construction department."

Kase II Building is owned by a Japanese's company, Marianas Seaside Development Corp.

Last March 22, a 43-year-old Chinese national died after falling 24 feet to the ground from a scaffold at the construction site of the multi-million dollar Imperial Pacific Resort project.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair-

Mark A. Brown expressed serious concern for the accident and stated that they have again advised their subcontractors to exercise safety first at the construction site.

Last December, then-U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an ex parte warrant to inspect the Imperial Pacific Resort construction project after an Occupational Safety and Health Administration tried, but was denied entry, to inspect the site to investigate the alleged death of a worker and other accidents.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Perez's request, but MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., which operates a construction contracting business at the project, initially objected and filed an emer-

gency motion to quash the warrant. MCC later withdrew its motion, prompting OSHA personnel to inspect the site.

MCC International reported to OSHA that last Dec. 6, an onsite worker had a heart attack and died on Dec. 4, 2016.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, counsel for Perez, stated that an OSHA compliance safety and health officer went to the site last Dec. 6 to inquire about the death and he observed what appeared to be workers exposed to fall hazards such as climbing from one level of the scaffolding to another without being continuously protected from a fall hazard.

It is not clear yet what role Belinda Overseas plays with the casino project.

Imperial Pacific has yet to comment about Belinda Overseas.

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In an interview, Thornburgh confirmed with reporters that PSS is losing the ability to consolidate grants for the Heroes to Teachers program under Title V.

**NMI**  
 From Page 1

to the more than \$200 million proposed for the 2017 fiscal year.

Torres, who was interrupted 49 times by applause, touched on every achievement—from the Inos administration to his own—since CNMI experienced its lowest economic point—a -17.5 percent gross domestic product in 2009.

"I would like to ask you all to take just a moment now and remember where we were only a few short years ago. If we honestly think back, the CNMI was seriously hurting and in the midst of a deep and persistent economic depression," said Torres. "At the height of the CNMI's economic decline in 2009, the Commonwealth suffered a reduction in GDP by 17.5 percent. Our tourism industry was struggling with low number of arrivals. Revenue was at record lows. High gas prices. Rolling blackouts. And both large and small businesses were struggling."

Things, however, have taken a dramatic and positive turn, with CNMI tourism—the Commonwealth's core industry—slowly increasing, coupled with investor confidence.

"Businesses are regaining their footing. New restaurants have opened. Unemployment has been dropping and there's an increased feeling of financial security and inclusion within our community," said Torres.

The important thing now, he said, is to develop and sustain the CNMI's economy.

"To me, the path ahead for our economy has its greatest measure in the homes and around the dinner tables of all families living in our community," said Torres. "What matters most to me is that we focus our efforts to help the parents who sit there late into

the night shaking their heads, filled with stress over how to pay their bills and provide enough food on that table to feed the family."

He said that he also heard what some people say that the CNMI should be cautious in reaching too high and too fast. "To those who question the benefits of economic growth, I wish to offer you briefly some information which shows why growth is important."

### Challenges

Torres said the CNMI's major infrastructures needs improvement in order to support the economic development. He said he is committed to have new and more efficient generators and the pursuit of alternative energy sources like solar power. The new gaming industry also needs to be carefully implemented in phases, he said.

Another concern is the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., from its finances to personnel.

Torres said substance abuse is also a major health concern. He said he has made the war on ice an important part of his administration.

Curbing illegal immigration is also on Torres' list of top priorities. "To be clear, the practice of bringing in workers under the guise of tourists will harm the overall economy and it will not be tolerated."

"Working with the Legislature and the federal government, the CNMI not only condemns this action, but we will put forward the resources to penalize those who threaten to harm our progress."

"If you exploit workers in the CNMI, if you threaten our economy, if you put at risk the many families relying on our success we will stop you... We will cancel flights and reduce tourists arrivals if I have to because this is our government and our islands."



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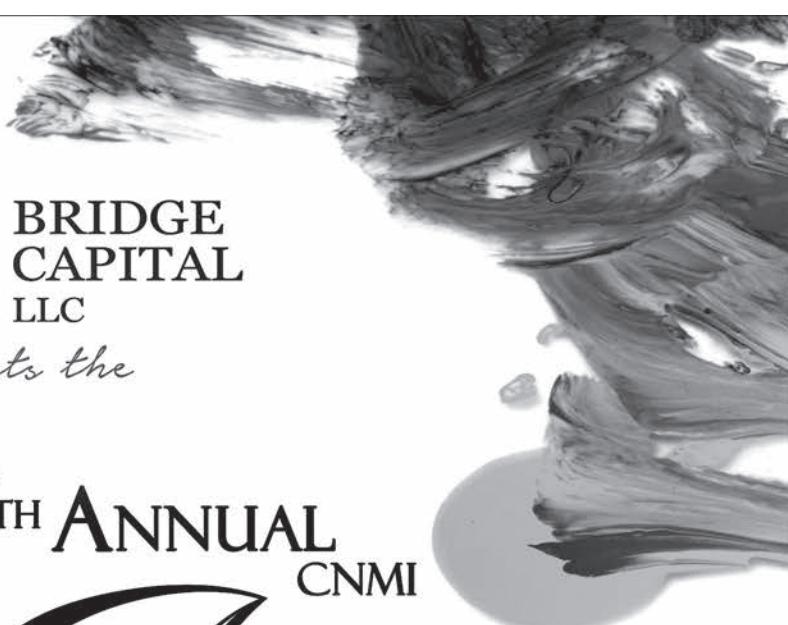
ERWIN ENCINARES

A staircase within the lobby area of the Imperial Pacific Resort. The staircase leads to the VIP rooms while directly over a planned bar area.

 BRIDGE CAPITAL LLC  
presents the

# 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CNMI

## Art Competition



Best of Show - \$2500

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Wood Carving and Others  
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2nd Prize: \$1000

Ages 29 and below  
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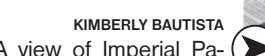
**Deadline of submission**  
**April 17, 2017**

Please submit entries to:  
Bridge Capital, LLC | Bridge Capital Building, Micro Beach Road  
Garapan Saipan MP 96950 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

For more information please send us an email at:  
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ERWIN ENCINARES  
A view of Imperial Pacific Resort's façade.



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA  
A view of Imperial Pacific's Resort's casino.



JON PEREZ

The top of the lobby staircase at the Imperial Pacific Resort shows an indoor view overlooking the lobby of the resort.



#### SUPPORTING RED CROSS

Margaret Cui Lijie, majority shareholder of Imperial Pacific International, and Kwong Yiu Ling, chief executive officer, led Imperial Pacific International employees in last Saturday's American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter Walkathon. In this photo, chapter executive director John Hirsh receives from Cui and Kwong a donation of more than \$3,000 that IPI employees themselves have raised in support of the NMI Red Cross. On top of the employees' donation, Imperial Pacific International donated \$2,000 to the walkathon.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC PHOTO

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Navy, Air Force training at FDM**

**ASAN, Guam**—The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- April 3, 4 and 7 from 12:30pm to 7:30pm
- April 5 from noon to 5:30pm
- April 6 from 10am to 7:30pm

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

**Power outages on April 4**

There will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, April 4, 2017, from 9am to 2pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew will replace five wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Herman Pan in front of Sky Chefs. Areas to be affected are POI Aviation, Delta Cargo, United Cargo, Sky Chefs, CUC Sand Filtration, Airport Mobil and Red Cross. Water wells to be affected include IF-4, IF-7, and IF-8. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (CUC)

**Saipan chamber meeting on April 5**

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its next general membership meeting on Wednesday, April 5, at the Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort. Guest speakers are Oscar Camacho of the Commonwealth Development Authority regarding the State Small Business Credit Initiative program and Jenny Heglund, with an update on the efforts of the CARE organization. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. (PR)

**GTC Elementary sets Kinder registration**

Kindergarten registration at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School for school year 2017 – 2018 is scheduled to begin today, April 3, 2017, from 8:30am to 11:30am and from 1pm to 3:30pm. Registration will take place in the school's main office (in the cafeteria). There are only 40 slots available, and registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. Please note that children entering Kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 30, 2017. All required documents must be submitted and received by a certified staff in order for your child to be on the roster. For more information, feel free to call 664-3400. (PR)

**Call for historical papers**

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University

of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marianas History Conference.

The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later.

The deadline for abstracts

is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the confer-

ence, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: [www.northernmarianashumanities.org](http://www.northernmarianashumanities.org). (PR)



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## Sports car falls into ditch in Marpi, 1 injured

One of the passengers of a yellow sports car was hurt when the vehicle ran off the road and fell into a ditch while heading down from the Suicide Cliff in Marpi on Friday morning.

The Department of Public Safety's information office has yet to provide information about the accident.

Department of Fire and

Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde, said a 23-year-old Chinese woman complained of abdominal pain and sustained bruises and abrasions on the shoulder and chest due to the use of a seatbelt.

Gersonde said the woman also suffered abrasions on the legs.

The injured woman was seated behind the driver of the car. She was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room for treatment.

Gersonde said the driver and the front passenger had no injuries and refused to be taken to the hospital.

Gersonde said that DFEMS received a call from DPS 911

dispatch on Friday at 7:02am about a car accident in Marpi

At 7:45am, DFEMS medics and two rescue teams from Garapan and Susupe fire stations were dispatched to the scene.

The car was reportedly heading down from Suicide Cliff when the driver failed to slow down, resulting in the vehicle running off the roadway. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## 'Job safety program must be in place'

All businesses in the CNMI should have a job safety program in place to avoid accidents that may cause injury or death in a workplace.

That's according to Commonwealth Casino Commission vice chair Joseph C. Reyes, who gave the statement after a Chinese worker died last week at the Imperial Pacific Resort's construction site.

Reyes said that government agencies or departments that have the authority must be given the chance to do their jobs.

"Even the [Commonwealth Casino Commission] has no authority. Conducting an oversight is the job and responsibility of the [CNMI] Department of Labor and the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration]," said Reyes.

The most important thing to know right now, he said, is if companies and businesses in the CNMI have their own safety program in their offices,

stations or work sites.

"Perhaps, if there's no regulation in place right now, there should be something that must be promulgated. And this ties in with the workers compensation insurance program, which, in part, requires that everybody must have a job safety program," said Reyes.

"The question is, how many companies, most especially construction companies, have a job safety program in place? If they [companies] do have it in place, that pretty much outlines job safety in any way for the local workforce."

CNMI OSHA, which is under the local labor department, is a consultation division that provides technical assistance and do onsite consultations to employers. It is a cooperative program for businesses by the United States labor department.

The division offers free and confidential on-site safety advice, and perform health

advice to small and medium-sized businesses to improve workplace safety and employees' health.

Reyes said their job is different from the federal OSHA, which is under the Region 9 office in San Francisco and where the CNMI among the states and territories under its jurisdiction. American Samoa and Guam, and the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada are the other territories and states under Region 9.

"OSHA, the federal arm of the U.S. government, conducts investigations and imposes the fines. They are responsible for issues like this, most especially if there are fatalities," said Reyes.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said the Legislature is in constant communication with heads of key agencies in order to ensure the safety and health conditions of all workers.

"We need to make sure that proper measures are in

place to prevent future incidents at the Imperial Pacific Resort project site and other developer construction sites for that matters as well," said Demapan.

"It is also important that we extend our due respect and assistance to IPI and other developers as well in a professional and diligent manner to ensure cooperation and effective communication so that we all succeed in our goals in an ethical and responsible manner."

He is now waiting for the report from the agencies that have communicated with IPI along with the investigation done by IPI and the contractor where the Chinese national was employed.

Photos posted on social media sites also showed a huge pile of debris at the construction site of the casino resort of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, resulting in a trash fire on March 13. (*Jon Perez*)

## Lawmaker pushes solar energy for NMI needs

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Dela Cruz.

"It is very feasible in the CNMI since the government and even the residents would not be spending a single penny. It will be the private company that will be funding the project, but this would still go to a bidding process because there are procurement regulations that have to meet certain standards."

Solar as an alternative source of energy would lessen the CNMI's dependency on diesel-fueled generators.

Dela Cruz said it would be up to CUC to look into the program. "CUC could do a study on the viability of the program in the CNMI. They could look into its benefits, one of which is creating jobs since the company would need people to install the panels."

"We're talking about alternative energy. What better way to lessen the carbon footprint than to no longer be dependent on diesel generating power sources?"

Torres said he and Dela Cruz's meeting with the representatives of the San Antonio solar industry were fruitful. "I discussed with them my support for renewable energy technologies for the CNMI. After the various meetings, I am encouraged with the information shared with me on the implementation of a solar host program, which was successful in helping that city to increase energy production and lower costs to its residents."

"It remains a goal to find viable solutions to increase the affordability of utilities for our residents and to do so with an energy mixture that maximizes the efficiency for our islands," added Torres.



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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Return to a real-world energy policy

**P**resident Barack Obama all but declared a war on coal. Companies could build all the coal mines they wanted to, he said, but he would make sure it bankrupted them. Hillary Clinton as president would have continued the war and even stepped up the hostilities. "We're going to put a lot of coal companies and coal miners out of business," she said at one point.

Now it looks like the war is over. President Donald Trump has signed an executive order undoing Obama's executive actions on climate change that would have, among other things, crippled the coal industry.

Just to be clear, Trump's action on Tuesday will not "save" coal. Natural gas is cheaper than coal and more environmentally friendly, so it is replacing coal in a lot of plants. That change is pushing the price of coal ever higher.

But his actions will at least slow the decline of coal, and let its death be the result of natural economic forces. That will make the transition easier for both those in the industry and the rest of us who depend on inexpensive and reliable sources of energy.

More important, his move is the first step in a return to a sane, well-balanced approach to energy that takes into account both environmental concerns and economic realities.

President Obama put all his energy eggs in the "save the planet" basket, with predictably "unforeseen" (i.e. known but ignored) consequences. According to Isaac Orr, research fellow for Energy and Environment Policy at the Heartland Institute, Obama's climate policies cost up to \$39 billion and resulted in 68,000 people losing their jobs in the manufacturing sector each year. But the EPA's own analysis showed they would reduce potential future global warming only by 0.019 degrees C by 2100—an amount too small to be accurately measured by even the most sophisticated scientific equipment.

Backing off from the "fossil fuels are evil" stand does not mean turning our backs on wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy. A sensible approach would take an "all of the above" policy. And it would acknowledge that there are trade-offs involving many factors in any policy.

We have been pursuing a fantasyland energy policy for years. It looks like we're finally coming back to the real world. Good.

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PROFOUND APOLOGIES TO  
ANTONIO PROHIAS AND  
MAD MAGAZINE...

LOOK! RUSSIA  
IS SPYING ON  
US!

WHICH ONE'S  
RUSSIA?



## State of the Commonwealth Address

*Editor's Note: The following is the text of the speech the author delivered at his State of the Commonwealth Address on Friday, March 31, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. It is being published in two parts due to its length.*

*First of a two-part series*

**T**he state of our commonwealth is more than just who we are now. It is where we came from, the journey we have taken together.

It is where we are going. The legacy we are leaving and the life our people will live decades from today.

The State of our Commonwealth began four decades ago, in a school auditorium where a group of leaders—our forefathers—joined together under the idea of self-determination, and with these words of our preamble: "We the people of the Northern Mariana Islands."

They launched our story—our journey to the future we see today.

This is part of who we are as a people from the very beginning, since our ancestors navigated in dark nights, guided by the sea of stars, long before a Covenant or a Commonwealth ever existed.

But in our short years on this voyage as a Commonwealth, we have seen good waters and stormy seas. Our course has occasionally wavered, and at times, we have lost sight of the stars that guide us.

The late governor Inos took it upon himself during one of our darkest periods to correct our course a few short years ago.

And since losing my friend and my mentor, it is now my duty to continue our mission and in his spirit we are forging ahead and have found the winds behind our backs.

Whether we use these winds to bring us closer to fulfilling this promise is how well each one of us takes on our share of our important responsibilities.

We must remain steadfast under the belief that we are in this journey together. Whether you supported this administration or not or whether you will support us in the future, our successes and our losses are ours to share. We must continue this journey under the principle that has guided our community through this all—*inafa'maolek*—doing good for one other.

That concept of *inafa'maolek* was on full display back in August 2015 when one of the worst storms to hit the Northern

**By RALPH DLG TORRES**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Marianas left many of our families and friends displaced and financially burdened. But it was ordinary people—regardless of income or status, or religion or political party—who led the charge of bringing back normalcy to our families. Those people included Jenny Hegland at CARE, Geri Willis, John Hirsh at the American Red Cross, Empty Vessel, young people, and the countless volunteers from all walks of life and from around the nation, who were there from the very beginning, helping people out and getting them the resources they needed. And they still continue that work to this day.

Let's give these people, who are here today, a round of applause.

And I would ask you all to take just a moment now and remember where we were only a few short years ago.

If we honestly think back, the CNMI was seriously hurting and in the midst of a deep and persistent economic depression. At the height of the CNMI's economic decline in 2009, the Commonwealth suffered a reduction in GDP by 17.5 percent.

Our tourism industry was struggling with low numbers of arrivals. Revenue was at record lows. High gas prices. Rolling blackouts. And both large and small businesses were struggling.

But things are different now. Over the last two years, we have experienced a surge of development in our tourism industry. Businesses are regaining their footing. New restaurants have opened. Unemployment has been dropping. And there's an increased feeling of financial security and inclusion within our community.

That's what the people who elected us want us to do and what I have tried to accomplish this past year.

I am extremely proud to remind everyone that last year we were able to pass a supplemental appropriations bill, Public

*Continued on Next Page*

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

**Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).**

**From Page 10**

Law 19-75, from our business gross revenue taxes, which increased our budget by \$40 million dollars:

■ \$2 million used to help families save on the cost of paying for their utility bills.

■ \$7 million for CHCC to assist in our hospital's ability to pay CUC

■ \$1 million for my administration's Rehabilitation Program and the Community Guidance Center

■ \$2 million for the CNMI Medical Referral Office

■ \$1,451,365 for active civil service employees frozen at Step 12

■ \$10,241,826 for the Public School System

■ \$1 million for the Northern Marianas College

■ \$150,000 for the Northern Marianas Trades Institute

■ \$9 million for the payment of land compensation and judgments

■ \$3,500,000 as a bonus to our retirees and their beneficiaries

To build upon this appropriation, today, I am submitting a budget that builds on the progress started last year.

My budget makes critical investments in key areas, while ensuring that we continue to fully address our government's longstanding obligations in a fiscally sustainable manner.

I am therefore submitting a budget that supports the needs of a growing population and projects revenues for this next year increasing by \$24.1 million for total gross budgetary resources of \$236.7 million.

This budget is part of the overall step toward a future that expands opportunity for all of our people.

In order to get there, we need to focus on developing our economy.

Our tourism numbers are strong. In 2016, for the first time we have surpassed the 500,000 visitors mark in more than a decade. Our GDP has risen by \$86 million since taking office and is now calculated at \$922 million—the highest it has been since 2009.

With one year in office, this administration has reduced the CNMI's deficit by more than \$23 million—a more than a 10-percent reduction.

In addition, business revenues are quickly rising, increasing by 41 percent since 2009.

But these numbers alone mean little. To me, the path ahead for our economy has its greatest measure in the homes and around the dinner tables of all the families living in our community.

In the conversations shared between husband and wife, parents and children at this table, we break away from politics and from ceremonial speeches. At these dining tables across our islands, the true state of our Commonwealth is being discussed.

What matters most to me is that we focus our efforts to help the parents who sit there late into the night shaking their heads, filled with stress over how to pay their bills, to provide enough food on that table to feed the family.

For the record, I also hear the voices of some who caution us not to reach too high and not too fast.

To those who question the benefits of economic growth, I wish to offer you briefly some information that shows why growth is important.

For example, total employment has increased by more than 9 percent since governor Inos and I took office and we can all be proud knowing that today we have more U.S. eligible workers in our local labor force than at any time since 2004.

Our growth has provided more jobs to our residents and is allowing both the new and existing workers a competitive wage that can better lift them from living paycheck to paycheck. Wages for our workers has increased 54 percent since its lowest point in 2006. This is something we should all be proud of...

The number of individuals who require food stamp benefits to help make ends meet is on the decline—dropping 18 percent since 2015—a reduction of 1,400 individuals, and nearly 400 households. The lowest levels for the program since 2004.

Together with the good staff at the NAP program, we have

strengthened our efforts to encourage recipients who are able to work to help aid in our labor shortage. Since 2015, we have reduced the total number of work registration participants by 30 percent.

And perhaps even more important, never since the beginning of our modern economy have we had a greater ratio of U.S. to foreign workers.

Since the beginning of this century, we have gone from 30 percent domestic workers in the labor force to nearly half of all workers.

Our growth is not just benefiting our people. For the first time in recent history, it is our people who are in the driver's seat.

The strength of our economy is now more than ever built upon the fathers and mothers who are earning more to support their families, and it is hardened by the student waiting tables or working at the gas station, developing the work ethic that will be the foundation of their future successes.

This administration has worked hard over the last year to be able to reach the station where we are today.

We have refocused our efforts to improving the quality of our islands as a world-class tourist destination.

Together with our CNMI legislature, we have increased total funding of MVA in our last budget by \$3 million, which is seeing tremendous results, making our tourism industry resilient and strong.

We have developed and implemented a policy to revive the Japanese market and despite a global downturn of outbound tourists from Japan, the CNMI has realized sustained growth and renewed excitement among the Japanese market.

Through innovative marketing strategies such as the "Three-Day Weekend in the Marianas" and the intense rebranding effort in off-island markets, the CNMI is positioning itself to truly compete with the world.

We have more sporting events, like Ironman, XTERRA, and the Saipan Marathon bringing in visitors from all over the world. We're collaborating with our private sector partners to revitalize Garapan, the heart of our tourist district through our Garapan Revitalization Task Force. We've relit the Froilan Tenorio pathway for tourists and residents alike to walk along the beautiful sunsets of our western shores in safety and comfort.

Our goal has been and will continue to be a diverse tourism sector that can withstand global trends, guided by the benchmark of 30 percent Japan, 30 percent Korea, and 30 percent China.

Based on our efforts, our hotels are at nearly full capacity for the first time in years. We have new hotels in the works and have also seen the renovation of the beautiful Kensington Resort, and with each new hotel comes greater amenities for our tourists and jobs for our people.

As we increase visitor arrivals, we must continue to ensure that the benefits of the economy are fostering local entrepreneurship. I want to recognize the success of the CNMI Micro Loan Program, which has provided \$73,000 to entrepreneurs from Saipan and Tinian in 2016.

One such loan is a shining example of not only the potential for success in our economy, but of the ability of our young entrepreneurs. I would like to recognize one recipient of the program who has been instrumental in leading the way for the new generation of CNMI locally owned businesses.

Robert Travilla, CEO and president of Tribe Marianas, had a dream and relentlessly pursued his passion, navigating his way through the pitfalls and hurdles of small business development to find a market and a home for his creativity.

Through the CDA Micro Loan program, Rob was able to turn an idea into a beautiful storefront on Middle Road, producing locally designed clothing that is worn across the Marianas and even around the world. Let's give Rob a round of applause.

Moreover, through a collaboration between the CNMI Department of Commerce and CDA, the CNMI has been able to support the development of restaurants, safety gear distributors, uniform and medical supply retailers and entertainment providers through the U.S. Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative Program, and has deployed more than \$8 million into the development of small businesses in our economy.

In fact, since coming into office, this government has witnessed more than 1,500 new businesses open up shop to provide goods and services, offer new restaurant opportunities, and accommodations for our tourists. In 2016, we saw a remarkable 36-percent increase in new business applications compared to 2013. The CNMI is and will continue to be a land of promise and opportunity for all with an idea and a dream.

To those dreams still waiting to be chased, the resources are here, the market is growing. The time is now to make your dream a reality. Your government is standing ready to support you. We are your partners.

And as we grow our small businesses, we must recognize the contributions and commitment of our private sector partners who have stayed with us through good times and bad. Joeten Enterprises, Herman's Bakery, J's Restaurant, and TanHoldings are but a few notable examples of businesses who are tied to our community, who have weathered the most trying times of our economy and who are now seeing a financial return as we continue to grow.

Joeten has built upon their decades of devotion to these islands and has embarked upon new investments that are hiring more U.S. citizens and making a lifelong impact on the quality of life in the CNMI. To the Joeten family, and all of our long-term private sector partners, thank you and *si yu'us ma'ase*. Your success is our success.

I have made it my personal responsibility to advocate for the continuation of our economic growth against federal laws that try to limit the heights we can achieve.

This year we have accomplished a first for the CNMI's relationship with the federal government. We undertook and completed the complex process outlined in Section 902 of our Covenant to speak toward the issues affecting our relationship with the federal government.

For the first time since the creation of our Commonwealth, the 902 consultations resulted in a final report being approved by the President of the United States and sent to Congress.

During our consultations, the CNMI laid out the case that our economy can grow with both foreign and U.S. workers. That our economic growth provides real benefits for U.S. citizens living on our islands. And that our private sector can be responsible in our efforts to hire and train U.S. citizens.

In the final report, the federal government agreed with us. They agreed that given our small population and location in Asia, we need access to workers in this part of the world as well as from the United States.

I want to thank the former Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs, Esther Kia'aina, for her tireless work for the territories and for the CNMI during the 902 consultations.

And now we are taking these arguments for our prosperity to members of Congress.

Together we will continue our efforts of advocating to the federal government for our right to succeed, and our right to provide for more jobs and more opportunities for all who call these islands home.

We must and we will take steps to extend the transition period, and allow the CNMI the access to the labor force we need to grow.

The simple fact is that there are not enough U.S. qualified workers living here to meet the demands for labor our economy requires today.

It is clear that the presence of foreign labor does not take a job from a worker born in the CNMI; it allows more jobs to be created for everyone.

And I am proud to report that the relationship I have built with our new President and Congress is growing stronger, and my office has open lines of communication with the White House to inform our President of the CNMI's needs.

While we may not agree on all of the issues, I am confident that our unprecedented ability to communicate directly with our counterparts in the nation's capital will continue to be of great importance and value.

For example, in my communications with the President I have stressed the economic needs of our community offered through the CW program and the discretionary parole granted to visitors from China. But I have also made it known that

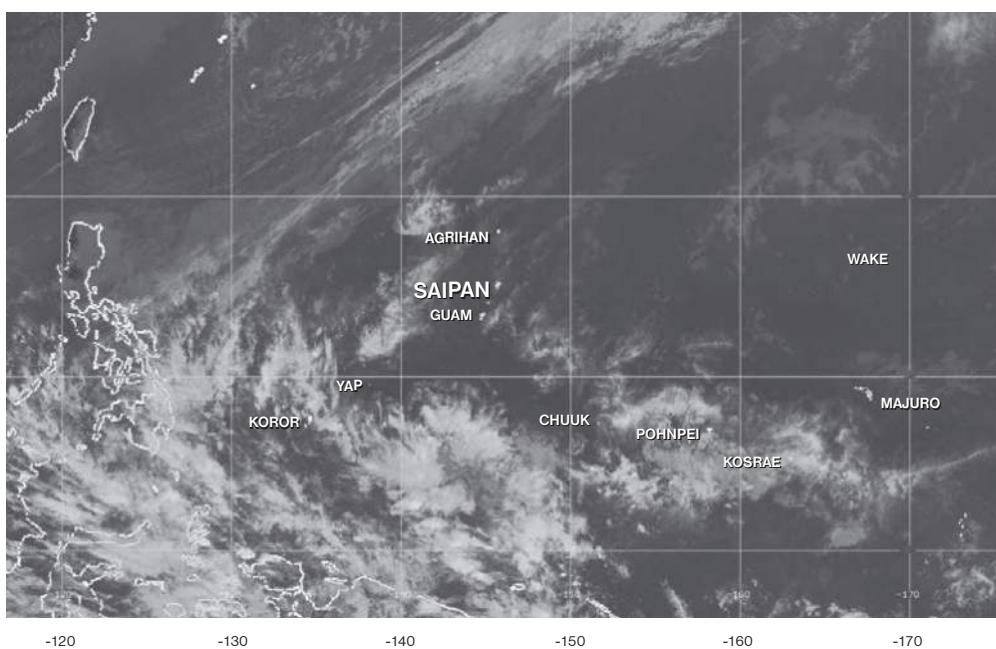
*Continued on Page 13*

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Rain showers in the morning becoming a steady light rain in the afternoon.	Chance of a shower or two during the morning, followed by partly cloudy skies in the afternoon.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms.	Windy with thunderstorms, especially in the morning.	Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms before midnight.
▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 84° ▼ 76°	▲ 83° ▼ 76°	▲ 84° ▼ 76°	▲ 84° ▼ 77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 7:34 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The short-term weather looks fairly dry with winds gradually increasing tonight and Monday as the cold front transitions into a shear line while approaching the Marianas. Clouds will increase Monday night through midweek. Showers will increase some, but at the moment, models show the bulk of showers and strongest winds staying to the northwest. Will have to watch how the shear line develops on Tuesday and Wednesday to see how far south it drops. Later in the week, drier weather will return. Seas of 4 to 5 feet will gradually start increasing starting Tuesday, eventually reaching to between 6 and 8 feet by Wednesday. Gentle winds will become moderate to fresh by Tuesday as the shear line nears.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86	78 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86	78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	88	71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85	80 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85	79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85	80 °F
Majuro	Sunny	85	81 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:10 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
6:42 AM	LOW TIDE	1.09
11:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
7:15 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.12

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:27 AM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:39 AM	12:25 PM
Wednesday	-	1:34 AM	1:22 PM
Thursday	-	2:25 AM	2:18 PM
Friday	-	3:13 AM	3:12 PM

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## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:  
 ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone  
 ■ \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone  
 ■ Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
<b>SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)</b>				<b>JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>				<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b>				<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b>			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b>				<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM</				

**From Page 11**

the CNMI is taking all steps available to us to be responsible members of our American community and that we can work collaboratively to address the concerns of the federal government.

Collaboration includes doing our part to curtail the practice of illegal immigration into the Commonwealth.

To be clear, the practice of bringing in workers under the guise of tourists will harm the overall economy and it will not be tolerated.

Working with the Legislature and the federal government, the CNMI not only condemns this action, but we will put forward the resources to penalize those who threaten to harm our community's progress.

If you exploit workers in the CNMI, if you threaten our economy, if you put at risk the many families relying on our success we will stop you.

I will continue working with all stakeholders on this issue to ensure the community's safety at all costs. We will cancel flights, and reduce tourist arrivals if I have to because this is our government and our islands.

And we have much work yet to accomplish.

I am strengthening my commitment to providing the businesses and residents of the CNMI quality infrastructure to support your needs.

Working with CUC and the CNMI Legislature, we have injected the largest appropriation of local dollars to the rehabilitation of our aged power generation system, to support stable and affordable electricity to a rapidly growing community. This is along with my commitment to newer, more efficient generators and the pursuit of alternative energy sources.

We are increasing our efforts to locate, fix, and maintain our water lines throughout Saipan, making significant steps toward providing quality 24-hour water access to all Saipan residents.

Your team at DPW is hard at work putting into place more than \$9 million in improvements to our roads, from Capital Hill to Beach Road—the most critical access ways of our community, in addition to secondary roads such as Kannat Tabla.

But we are not done. I am announcing the mobilization of nearly \$31 million of federal and local funding to roads across the CNMI over the next two years. We will have new roads from Beach Road, to Kagman Road, and roads and routes throughout Tinian and Rota. We are putting into place the money and the manpower to fix the

roads to our major tourist sites, such as the newly developed Kalabera Cave, and finally making it easier to reach Mt. Tapochao and the Forbidden Island lookout.

Federal and local dollars have sat unused for years, and this administration is poised to do more, to spend more, to build more roads than ever before.

DPW is truly "On the Road Again"

In the coming months, we will also launch the CNMI's first public transit fixed route system through the hard work of COTA. What will begin with one bus will grow to a fleet that will fuel our industry and remove one of the greatest barriers to our people's success in the labor force...simply getting transport to their jobs.

For our workforce, we will take the necessary steps to build a network of vocational training institutions so that our workers of tomorrow can be found right here at home. And in this budget I am offering students willing to take on vocational training more options for their future careers. Because our greatest resource is and will continue to be you, our people.

This past year also showcased the viability and potential of our casino gaming industry—a new venture that has diversified our tourism makeup, bringing in new resources for our government, and most importantly jobs and opportunities for our people.

To date the operations of Best Sunshine Live, the live-

training facility on Saipan, has brought in over \$72 million in BGRT, excise, and salary and wage tax revenue since beginning its operations in 2015.

To the many local employees of this new venture, the more than 600 new workers that have found a good paying job and satisfaction in the work, I thank you.

This is an ambitious project that will bring the CNMI into a new era of prosperity, but we must carefully implement its phases and even delay its full implementation so that we can ensure we have the infrastructure and plans in place to strengthen our economy and protect our community.

But the gaming industry is only one aspect of my efforts to diversify our economy.

We cannot settle for success of Saipan alone. A strong Commonwealth lives up to the term and relies on the common wealth of all who call these islands home.

Already, we are seeing success of proactive policymaking on Tinian and, with the signing of Public Law 20-01, which clarified the terms of development on our ports, our laws now better support the success of the Tinian people and investors, instead of hampering them unnecessarily.

As a result of the enactment of this law, I can announce today a long-awaited need for the community and the Tinian economy. This year, we will once again have an inter-island ferry service, shuttling passengers, resi-

dents and tourists between Saipan and Tinian. I must thank and recognize Bridge Investment Group and Phillip Mendiola-Long who is making this happen.

To the people of our beautiful island of Rota, I am proud to announce that work is on the way to bring this natural jewel of the CNMI back to life, and jumpstart the economy toward a path of becoming a world-class, environmentally sustainable tourist destination.

I am working with commitment and locally focused investors to see the development of hotels, air travel, and air cargo to Rota this year that will improve life for all Rota residents and provide opportunities for the sons and daughters of Rota to return home.

I stand before you today to announce to the people of Rota and Tinian, that we will continue the work toward an economy we all can be proud of. Because we are one Commonwealth pulling together.

In the years ahead, I dream of a community with a strong and diversified economy with a vibrant middle class on all islands.

We are already on the path to realize this dream. I am proud and thankful for the efforts of Docomo Pacific who is on track to lay our second fiber optic cable in the CNMI. Their work will supplement our access to the world, and provide the infrastructure to see our residents and businesses obtain advanced access to the unlimited potential of the internet.

This is a milestone in our history that I will build upon to help craft a Commonwealth that is a shining light in the Pacific—a connected, competitive, and innovative society whose ambitions have no limits.

However, as proud I am of the progress being made with our technology infrastructure, the process of getting us to this point highlights the limits of our regulatory and permitting structure.

In order to advance in a competitive world, we need to streamline our governmental regulation process.

Our laws and regulations are made to serve our people.

And when we see laws and regulations that are outdated or out of touch, we must have the ability to change them.

In the coming weeks, I will order all executive branch departments to undertake a review of their regulations to identify changes that will eliminate the barriers to prosperity. When we find regulations that limit progress, we will fix them.

As we progress with our economy, I want you to know: Complaints without solutions do nothing and our people deserve better than that. If anyone can provide a legitimate alternative to our current path that increases jobs, provides for our retirees, creates opportunities for our small businesses, decreases our levels of poverty, and grows our ability to provide our people a greater standard of living, I will support your efforts.

However, there are times

our community requires bold action and solutions, and we must act.

For example, we had to take decisive action to protect the wellbeing of our retirees because how we care for our elders is a pure reflection of who we are.

Our retirees did the foundation work and labored for so many years for the success of these islands. In return, they did not ask for luxury or extravagant retirement benefits, but the basic needs to survive after their years of service.

That is why it is so important for me to uphold the promise of receiving their full benefits, to ensure we have the resources to keep this promise, and ensure that they receive their full benefits.

The intent of dedicating all of the \$15 million annual license fee generated from the Saipan casino is to make good on the promises we have given to our retirees.

And I will continue to ensure that the Commonwealth does all it can to protect them because to do otherwise is more than bad policy, it strikes at the very foundation of who we are.

Our *manamko* overall should be cherished and supported. They were at the forefront of our development. And they are our linkages to the past, and were the stewards of our land.

In protecting them, we must also continue their legacy of conservation and stewardship over our shared resources.

**To be continued tomorrow.**

**4 FOR 3 BUFFET**

ONE dines FREE for every THREE paying adults. Available during lunch and dinner from Monday to Saturday.  
Does not apply to other promos or special banquet events. Must present a valid local resident ID. Promo ends on June 30, 2017.

**The Magellan**

**PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN**

# State of the Commonwealth Address

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, arrives at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to deliver his first State of the Commonwealth Address on Friday.



Members of the CNMI House of Representatives listen as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres delivers his SoCA.

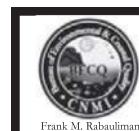


Members of the CNMI Senate wait for the program to begin.

**JP World Corporation**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Please be informed that  
**JP WORLD CORPORATION**  
Has lost company checks with series  
208-250; BANK OF HAWAII  
Any transactions entered into using  
the above-mentioned checks will not  
be honored by the Management.



Frank M. Rabauliman  
Administrator

## Division of Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel. No. 664-8300 • Fax No. 664-8315 As of January 6, 2017



Frances A. Castro  
Director

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Pacific Marine Enterprises	03/06/2017 SSCHPlm-2017-X-037	Geotechnical Survey	Lower Base, Saipan	Multiple APCs	Approved-3/30/2017
2. AC Pacific, LLC	03/13/2017 SW-2017-X-038	Soil Investigation	Middle Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Wetland	Approved 3/21/2017
3. Zen Homes	03/14/2017 SMS-2017-X-039	Apartment Complex	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	On Hold-Pending Submission
4. Imperial Pacific International	03/16/2017 SMS-2015-X-029 Amendment 2017-1	Name Change	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved-3/17/2017
5. Crystal Star Corp.	3/10/2017 SLRm-2015-X-089	Marine Sports Activities Stand Up Paddle Board	Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Approved 03/20/2017
6. Bill Sang	3/16/2017 SCH-2017-X-041	Pavement of Driveway	San Roque	Coastal Hazard	Approved-3/28/2017
7. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Pacific Islands Club	3/17/2017 SMS-90-X-93 Amendment 2017-2	Water Park Expansion	San Antonio	Major Siting	Under Review
8. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Pacific Islands Club	3/17/2017 SS-2017-X-042	Soil Investigation	San Antonio	Shoreline	Under Review*
9. Saipan Sun Company	3/28/2017 SPI-2017-X-044	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
10. David E. Johansen	3/30/2017 SPI-2017-X-043	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
11. Auto Marine, Inc.	3/30/2017 SLRm-98-X-224	Marine Sports Reef Walker Operation	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review
12. BSEA, Inc.	3/30/2017 SLRm-03-X-47	Marine Sports Saipan Lagoon & Reef	Tanapag Lagoon, Banana Boat Operation		Renewal-Under Review

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**INVITATION TO BID  
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-007-17**

**SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 10, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**"PROCUREMENT & DELIVERY OF ONE UNIT VEHICLE: 2017 ACCESS CAB P/U TRUCK, 4-CYLINDER 4WHEEL DRIVE, AUTOMATIC TRANS, AIR-CONDITIONING, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, WHITE COLOR, ALL OTHER FEATURES AS PER FACTORY SPECIFICATIONS AND TO INCLUDE INSTALLATION OF A NEW BED-FITTED ALUMINUM TOOL BOX"**

DELIVERY OF ONE UNIT VEHICLE TO SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SHALL BE 90 DAYS OR SOONER AFTER BID AWARD. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL AT [atudela@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:atudela@cpa.gov.mp) (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) PRIOR TO MARCH 31, 2017.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "IFB FOR PROCUREMENT & DELIVERY OF ONE UNIT VEHICLE FOR CPA SAIPAN". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND \$40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, front fourth left, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, third left, join first lady Diann T. Torres, fifth left, and Villa M. Hocog, second left, CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alejandro Castro, left, and members of the 20th CNMI Legislature—led by Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, second row fourth left, and House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, second row sixth left—for a group photo after Friday's SoCA.



The CNMI Color Guard begins the ceremony with U.S. National and CNMI anthems.



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, arrives at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center with Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog.



House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, from right, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios preside over the 20th CNMI Legislature's joint session to receive the State of the Commonwealth Address of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.



Members of the Judiciary, front left, and the crowd listen to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' SoCA.



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 03/20/17      Closing Date: 04/03/17\*

JVA#17-003:      Community Projects Coordinator II  
Annual Salary: \$25,791.92 - \$27,081.51\*\*  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-004:      Marketing Specialist I  
Annual Salary: \$23,394.02 - \$24,563.73\*\*  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-007:      Administrative Assistant  
Annual Salary: \$18,329.83 - \$25,791.92\*\*  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Opening Date: 03/31/17      Closing Date: 04/13/17\*  
JVA#17-006:      Special Assistant to the Managing Director  
Annual Salary: \$25,000.00 to \$35,000.00\*\* UNGRADED  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-008:      Statistics Specialist I  
Annual Salary: \$23,394.03 to \$24,563.73  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-009:      Chief Accountant  
Annual Salary: \$45,000.00 - \$60,000.00 \*\* UNGRADED  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

**\*\* The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.**

If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.



**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
2nd Floor CDA Bldg.m Oleai, Saipan P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Website: [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### POSITION VACANCY:

Administrative Specialist II,  
Classified Position  
Tinian Office

LOCATION:  
ANNUAL SALARY:  
CLOSING DATE:

\$16,858.38 - \$20,484.60  
Thursday, April 11, 2017

### NATURE OF WORK

The position is under the supervision of the Office Manager, Saipan. The individual works in conjunction with Saipan personnel and require coordination with the various departments in order to accomplish a variety of responsibilities. This position is tasked with promoting CDA's mission in Tinian. The position has some degree of independence such as the management of daily activities-revising workflow to suit the agency.

### GENERAL DUTIES:

- Issues loan applications and explains basic application requirements.
- Organizes and coordinates CDA related functions and events.
- Organizes and coordinates deliveries and pick-ups and routes necessary documents for Board signature.
- Prepares and submits monthly activity report to Administration, Saipan.
- Receives and receipts all payments.
- Prepares and deposits collections on a daily basis.
- Prepares daily collection report and submits to Accounting Dept, Saipan.
- Submits daily receipts on a monthly basis to Accounting Dept. Saipan.
- Performs related work as assigned.

### QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA Degree in Business Administration or related field; plus (2) years of experience in office management or staff. Knowledge of modern office practices and modern office equipment; Knowledge of MS Office word processing and spreadsheet applications; Ability to express oneself effectively, orally and in writing; and have excellent organizational skills.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC/CDA Office in Tinian.

**Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Tinian.**

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at [c.kintol@developcnmi.com](mailto:c.kintol@developcnmi.com).



**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
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Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Website: [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### POSITION VACANCY:

Accounting & Loan Technician I,  
Classified Position  
Saipan Office

LOCATION:  
ANNUAL SALARY:  
CLOSING DATE:

\$13,703.64 - \$22,302.94  
Thursday, April 11, 2017

### NATURE OF WORK

This position requires a person who is detailed and has an eye for compliance requirements. It involves multiple and moderately complex duties in providing senior staffers in accounting and loan departments in a variety of responsibilities.

### GENERAL DUTIES:

#### Loan Department:

- Assists with preparation of loan notes documents and processes.
- Assists with compiling data for various loan department reports including data entry.
- Assists with internal loan status tracking system.
- Assists with tracking and maintaining UCC filings; the inventory of real estate collaterals; various loan files for both private lenders and CDA direct lending programs.
- Assists with maintaining correspondence logs.

### Accounting Department:

- Receives payments.
- Collects payments daily from the Drop Box.
- Processes pre-authorized credit card payments.
- Inputs payment details and issues receipts.
- Assists with preparation of bank deposits.

Performs related work as assigned.

### QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Graduation from High School, GED or Advanced Development Institute plus three (3) years of experience in maintaining a variety of financial records. Knowledge of modern office practices and modern office equipment; Knowledge of MS Office word processing and spreadsheet applications; Ability to express oneself effectively, orally and in writing; and have excellent organizational skills.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office in Oleai, Saipan.

**Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.**

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at [c.kintol@developcnmi.com](mailto:c.kintol@developcnmi.com).

## NMHC coalition to do a count of homeless in NMCI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kbautistista1222@gmail.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Homeless Coalition that provides services that seeks to combat homelessness and at-risk homelessness of CNMI families will be having its first ever homeless count on Saipan this Saturday, April 8, 2017.

The survey results will be published later. The count would then be conducted on an annual basis on Saipan.

If funding allows, the coalition plans to also reach out to the islands of Rota and Tinian in future counts.

The coalition is a non-profit

group under the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. that aims to lower the number of homeless people in the Marianas.

The purpose of the survey—called Point in Time Homeless Count—is for the coalition to obtain data on exactly how many people in the Commonwealth are homeless. These include people who live on the streets, in abandoned buildings, parks, and in houses that do not reach the standard of a livable home as defined by the Housing Act of 2009—“sound, internally and externally, with roof, roofing tiles and slates, windows,

floors, ceilings, walls, stairs, doors, skirting boards, fascia, tiles on any floor, ceiling and wall, gutters, down pipes, fittings, furnishings, gardens and common areas maintained in good condition and repair and not defective due to dampness or otherwise.”

On April 8, coalition volunteers and members will visit Saipan villages that are identified to harbor the most number of homeless and will be offering a survey to the neighborhood to determine how many people are homeless and are living in homes that do not meet the standard.

This survey is a requirement

by the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development for every community that receives federal funds for programs to aid the homeless, particularly the Continuum of Care Grant, a grant that the CNMI

Homeless Coalition plans to submit in September 2017.

On April 6, the coalition will be meeting with its members and with volunteers to discuss which village each person will be placed at.

The Homeless Count will take place from 7am to 5pm

## Tinian school holds literacy, numeracy night

The Tinian Elementary School held its first Literacy and Numeracy Night on March 28, with over 100 parents and students attending.

The night started at 4pm and ended at 8pm. There were 10 learning centers altogether and parents and students had to visit at least seven or more

centers and have their passport stamped before they can get a gift bag with goodies.

Registration began at 4pm followed by parents and students' orientation. Teachers set up the learning centers in the classrooms where parents and students visited and played games related to language arts and math.

Community partners donated many prizes for the raffle. Elected leaders, vendors and food caterers donated food for the parents and students for the evening. At the end of the evening, everyone gathered at the school cafeteria for the evaluation process and raffle drawing.

Although many parents, students, faculty and staff were tired by the end of the evening, they still displayed happy faces because of the success of the evening.

“I had never been so tired since the beginning of this school year. But it is all worth it,” said Carmen Farrell, ELA chairperson.

“I am so happy with the way it turned out. I have never seen so many parents and students in my classroom at one time,” said Ian Pascua, chairperson for the math committee.

School vice principal Joann Lane Cepeda said: “I am extremely pleased with the number of participants. This has always been one of our major challenges, but with the efforts

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL.: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS )  
HOUSING CORPORATION, )  
Plaintiff, ) CIVIL ACTION  
vs. ) NO.: 17-0016  
JOAQUIN B. CAMACHO )  
AND RAMONA S. CAMACHO )  
Defendants.)

### SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 7th day of March, 2017 by order of the Court.

/s/ Clerk of Court

on Saturday.

The coalition and the NMHC are seeking the help of volunteers or donations for the success of the first homeless count on Saipan. For those who ant to volunteer, email Jacob Muna at jjmun@nmhc.gov.mp or contact him at 234-7689.

“It was a wonderful event made possible by our hard-working team, our families who came out and participated, our community partners for their untiring support.”

School principal Lou Connie B Manglona said: “It was a wonderful event made possible by our hardworking team, our families who came out and participated, our community partners for their untiring support.”

Cepeda and Manglona said: “We want to take this opportunity and express our sincere ‘appreciation and thank you’ to everyone who in one way or another helped us. To our parents and students who came to the event after a long day at work and at school. To our faculties and staff who not only stayed back after a long day at school with the students, but

also for the long months preparations. To our community partners, special thanks for the donations of prizes for the raffles and for the food. We hope that this is the beginning of a good relationship in which we can improve our parental and community involvement to make our school a better place for our children. Again our sincere appreciation, *sen dangkulu na si yu'uus ma'asi* and thank you to everyone.”

Rodney Carbales, Tinian Elementary School PTSA president, said: “It was a very good turn-out. I was very pleased with our parents and very thankful of our community partners for their contributions of prizes and food for the evening. I hope this is the beginning of a positive relationship with our parents and community.”

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to our little star, Colin James Lilles! May your special day and every other day bring you as much happiness as you are bringing to all of us. Much love from Mommy, Daddy, Kuya, Lolos, and Lolas.



# Know your Tides

A CITIZEN SCIENCE PHOTO CONTEST

**Environmental Awareness Month: BECQ/DCRM**

**“Eco-friendly from the mountain to the sea”**

**Climate Change and Tides:**

Climate change will cause sea levels to rise. Most of this water will be stored in the Pacific Ocean, and islands like Saipan will feel the effects. In the future high tides will come more landward than they currently do. Future low tides might start where today's high tides stop.

We can document this long term change through photographs and tide charts. Each of these serves as a record of tidal change. Documenting high tides now can help us know how future sea level rise might affect us.

**Photographs**

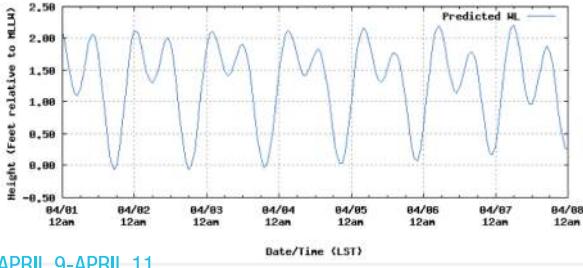
Please upload your photo of high tide or low tide from April 1—April 9 for Environmental Awareness Month. Photographing tides is one way to help planners and natural resource managers prepare for the impacts of climate change. Ideally, you'll want your image to capture the highest water line or the lowest water line. However, all images and associated data are helpful for the objectives of the Citizen Science project.

Take your photo facing parallel to the shoreline. If available, include some sort of feature in your picture – wall, bunkers, docks, or rocks make good markers.

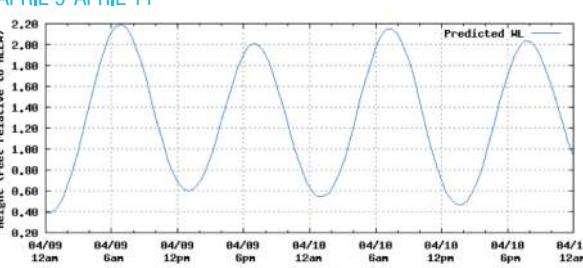
How these photos are used:

1. Document current tidal change in coastal areas
2. Visualize the impacts of future sea level rise in the community
3. Ground-truth and validate models by comparing predictions with reality.
4. Serve as a living record of change for future generations

**APRIL 1-APRIL 8**



**APRIL 9-APRIL 11**



NOAA Tide Charts: Tanapag Harbor, Saipan Island, Station ID 163327

**Rules**

Open contest dates are: April 1 – April 9, 2017

**Submit:**  
All photos must be uploaded by 12:00 am April 10, 2017.  
Facebook, Instagram, twitter.  
Label: #KnowYourTides#DCRM#EAM  
Facebook, Instagram, twitter



**Caption:** Date, Time, Location, Your Name, HighTide/Lowtide  
\*\* All tides must be accurately marked to win.

**Categories:**  
General Public, 9-12 grade, 6-8th grade.  
General Public –1st, 2nd, 3rd, Most likes  
9-12 grade: 1st, Most Likes  
6-8 grade: 1st, Most likes

**Judges:** Chelu Photography, BECQ

**Prizes:** A take home 12x18 canvas print of your photo  
Your photo displayed at BECQ/DCRM events  
on a 3" x 4" canvas

# Labor gives IPI suspended fine

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor's Enforcement Division sanctioned Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC with a suspended fine of \$1,000 for the late submission of its quarterly total workforce listing. IPI was supposed to submit its fourth quarter 2016 listing on or before Jan. 31.

The sanction is suspended, however, for one year and would be extinguished, so long as IPI no longer violates CNMI Labor regulations.

According to Labor's Enforcement Division, IPI failed to submit its quarterly employee listing as required in the CNMI law.

During the hearing, IPI lawyer Kelley Butcher said the de-

lay was an oversight due to the holiday season and "illnesses at the workforce rather than a deliberate attempt by employer to circumvent the law."

IPI submitted the workforce listing on March 10, a week after being served with the notice of hearing. The Enforcement Division then confirmed that they received the listing on the same day IPI submitted it.

At the enforcement hearing, James Ulloa represented Labor's Enforcement Division while Bertha Leon Guerrero (vice president for human relations) and Butcher (legal counsel) represented IPI, with hearing officer Jerry Cody presiding.

Cody still found IPI in violation of the regulation when it failed to submit the list on time even though they realized that

it was already overdue. The division then asked that IPI be fined the maximum penalty of \$2,000 for each violation.

The Enforcement Division, however, recommended to Cody to give IPI a suspended sanction in order to give them an opportunity to "demonstrate good faith compliance." The entire sanction is suspended for a one-year period and would then be extinguished, provided IPI would no longer violate CNMI Labor regulations and other statutes in that period.

The suspended fine of \$1,000 would be reinstated if IPI fails to comply with the terms of the order or if they would commit other reporting violations. Additional monetary sanctions that would go through due process would be imposed on IPI if warranted.



and Subsidiaries

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

At the Close of Business December 31, 2016 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS	LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
Interest-Bearing Deposits in Other Banks \$ 3,187	Deposits \$ 14,320,240
Investment Securities 6,019,038	Securities Sold Under
Funds Sold 707,343	Agreements to Repurchase 523,378
Loans Held for Sale 62,499	Funds Purchased 9,616
Loans and Leases 8,949,785	Retirement Benefits Payable 48,451
Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses (104,273)	Accrued Interest Payable 5,334
Net Loans and Leases 8,845,512	Taxes Payable and Deferred Taxes 21,674
 TOTAL EARNING ASSETS 15,637,579	Other Liabilities 134,199
	Other Debt 267,938
 TOTAL ASSETS \$16,492,367	 TOTAL LIABILITIES 15,330,830
 CASH AND DUE FROM BANKS 169,077	 SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
Premises and Equipment, Net 113,505	Common Stock 576
Accrued Interest Receivable 46,444	Capital Surplus 551,628
Foreclosed Real Estate 1,686	Accumulated Other
Mortgage Servicing Rights 23,663	Comprehensive Loss (33,906)
Goodwill 31,517	Retained Earnings 1,415,440
Bank-Owned Life Insurance 274,188	Treasury Stock, at Cost (772,201)
Other Assets 194,708	 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY 1,161,537
 TOTAL ASSETS \$16,492,367	 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY \$16,492,367

## BANK OF HAWAII - SAIPAN STATEMENT OF CONDITION

At the Close of Business December 31, 2016 (dollars in thousands)

ASSETS	LIABILITIES
Cash \$ 916	Deposits \$ 196,032
Loans, Net of Unearned Income 24,960	Accrued Interest Payable 5
Allowance for Loan Losses (647)	Other Liabilities 32
Net Loans 24,313	 TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 196,069
Accrued Interest Receivable 125	
Due from Head Office 169,799	
Premises and Equipment, Net 736	
Other Assets 180	
 TOTAL ASSETS \$ 196,069	

The audit reports of Bank of Hawaii Corporation and Bank of Hawaii - Saipan Branches are available for public review at the Office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce, Capital Hill, Saipan.

MEMBER FDIC



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### Office of the Executive Director

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



## INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-17-007

### CUC FACILITY FENCE REPAIRS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the repair of security fences for multiple Saipan water facilities in need of fence repairs due to damage caused by typhoon Soudelor.

This project is funded by the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on April 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-007, CUC Facility Fence Repairs", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 28, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on April 17, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

**CUC-IFB-17-021**

### IFET DRIVE 4-INCH WATERLINE PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Ifet Drive 4-Inch Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new 4-inch & 6-inch distribution lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of new flush hydrant, new water lateral connections, relocation and reconnection of existing water meters and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on March 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-021, Ifet Drive 4-Inch Waterline Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 05, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 31, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator

# COTA eyes six routes for public transport system

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is looking at six bus routes spread throughout Saipan, once the public transportation system is in full gear.

"Our office is currently in the planning phase for proper implementation to ensure that this service system is practical, efficient, and sustainable. We are really thankful to Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres for his support of prioritizing public transportation by ensuring the programs and projects of [COTA] move forward in the right direction in a timely manner," said Alfreda Camacho, special assistant for public transportation.

Camacho said that planning the fixed route system is critical and requires much more than placing buses on roads to pick up and drop off riders.

"We must take into account the present road conditions, acquiring additional rolling stock, and that bus stop infrastructure and signboards meet the federal requirements," she said, "whether or not each proposed bus stops are accessible, will the timing from one bus



JON PEREZ

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority special assistant for Public Transportation Alfreda Camacho joins her management staff in last week's beach cleanup. The group began their cleanup from Micro Beach to Paseo de Marianas, the heart of Garapan's tourist district.

stop to another is achievable for the different times of the day and week before they are set in stone in timetables and brochures for announcement and distribution."

Camacho said that she and COTA's management have been continuously conducting dry runs of the proposed bus

routes, along with configuring the bus fare rates. "As with every new agency implementing something, we do anticipate challenges and obstacles."

"We stand ready to accept each challenge or obstacle head on. It is with our every effort and intent to provide practical and sustainable

solutions for the best interest of this community that we serve with respect to this fixed route public transportation system."

The first planned bus route (Route 1A and Route 1B) would start at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., then would go south on Middle

Road heading to As Terlaje Hill at the Northern Marianas College. It would continue to Shell Dandan, then turn right to As Lito toward Han Nam Road in Koblerville before working its way back to Beach Road, all the way in front of Hyatt Regency Saipan and back to the hospital.

The bus route would pass several offices, stores, and other commercial establishments, including NMC.

The first bus arrived at the end of last month and Camacho said they plan to add at least three more to serve the CNMI's growing population. "The bus system is not only for the residents and the community. Tourists and other visitors are more than welcome to use it."

She said the bus is accessible for people with disabilities and those in wheelchairs. The first bus cost around \$140,000 and funded by a grant. COTA was awarded the money by the Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs last year. The planned additional buses will cost between \$140,000 to \$250,000, depending on the specifications of the bus.

Camacho and COTA's staff held a cleanup over the weekend where they picked trash from Micro Beach to Paseo de Marianas. "We chose this area because this is where the core route (Route 1A and 1B) will run through. This is the tourist district and [COTA] needs to do our part to help beautify our island, not just our tourists who come visit but for each one of us living here as well."

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**  
 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**DPW-17-IFB-013**

**PARKING LOT STRIPING FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BUILDING**

Governor Ralph D. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Parking Lot Striping for the Commonwealth Development Authority Building, San Jose, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The project package will be available on or after April 03, 2017, at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on April 24, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 01, 2017 to Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-17-IFB-013". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 15, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, May 15, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@ptcon.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 15, 2017 and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than May 25, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 26, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on May 15, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI; and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Forty Five (45) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US\$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
 Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 / 234-7670 • Fax: 234-9021  
 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

**EQUAL HOUSING LENDER**

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

<u>Lot No.:</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Minimum Bid</u>
011 G 459	800 sq. meters Chopak Dr. Kagman	\$37,708.36
002 G 286	929 sq. meters Bilembines Str. Kagman	\$31,767.36
011 G 1322	929 sq. meters Kakaguete Ave. Kagman	\$49,098.68

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017 subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property is as indicated above.
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
  - a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
  - b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
  - c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for these properties listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021.
5. Deposit Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC. Also, failure to deposit the 10% of the purchase price on the same day will subject NMHC to award the winning bid to the next highest bidder. All auction terms and rules must apply to the next highest bidder.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2017

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

**NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.**

# Health & Fitness

## CPR for dummies

By JERRY ZEZIMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**W**hen it comes to saving lives, I used to be such a dummy that I couldn't even spell CPR. But I recently took a CPR class in which the instructor used me as a dummy. Now I am a lifesaver. And if you're ever choking on one, I can save your life.

I was transformed from a nervous wreck who knew only the Heineken maneuver ("You're choking? Have a beer!") to a confident guy who also knows the Heimlich ("Pop goes the Life Saver!") by Tom Henry, the dashing, funny, extremely impressive trainer who taught the CPR class I took at work.

I was among 17 aspiring heroes in the auditorium, where Tom had assembled the tools of his trade: masks, defibrillators and, of course, dummies, of which I would be the biggest.

"These mannequins and dolls are my second family, except they don't talk back," said Tom, 55, a former New York City CSI detective ("It was boring compared to the TV show," he acknowledged) who now runs an American Heart Association-approved CPR training center.

The mannequins and dolls came in three sizes: adult, child and baby. Since the adults were only heads and torsos, Tom wanted to demonstrate on a real-life dummy.

"Jerry!" he said, pointing in my direction. "Come on up."

I bounded to the middle of the spacious room and was asked to lie on the floor, next to an adult mannequin.

Tom gazed down and said, "The dummy is better-looking."

Then he ran through the possibilities of why I might need CPR, among them a heart attack or a bad fall.

"If I hit my head," I said, "I wouldn't get hurt."

"I can see why," said Tom, adding that one of the first things to do is to take off the victim's shirt in case a defibrillator is needed. "I am NOT going to take off Jerry's shirt," he announced.

My colleagues, both men and women, breathed an audible sigh of relief.

Tom then said mouth-to-mouth resuscitation might be needed.

"Am I going to lock lips with Jerry?" he asked. "No way!"

Instead, he demonstrated the technique used in pumping the victim's chest to keep the heart beating. It didn't hurt because Tom didn't use full force—he saved that for the mannequin—but it did tickle.

When Tom was finished, he helped me up and announced, "We saved Jerry!"

My colleagues applauded, which also did my heart good, though I'm sure none of them wanted to lock lips with me, either.

"When performing CPR, you can't worry about hurting somebody," Tom said. "If a person is in cardiac arrest, they're dead. You can't make it worse. You can't hurt somebody who's dead. Although in Jerry's case," he added, "it might be difficult to tell the difference."

Later, Tom used me to demonstrate how to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

"Despite what Jerry says," he noted, "it doesn't involve beer. You have to do this if a person is choking."

Tom got behind me and put his arms around my middle, showing the class how to force out whatever might be lodged (a Wint O Green Life Saver, perhaps, or an entire Happy Meal) in my upper airway.

"You should be careful when doing this to someone who's pregnant," Tom advised.

"Don't worry," I said. "I'm not."

"No," Tom replied, "but you are kind of flabby."

We used the mannequins to learn how to perform CPR and do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

"If you were breathing into Jerry's mouth," Tom told my classmates, "you'd have to hope he brushed his teeth."

"I did that yesterday," I said.

The last thing we learned was how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator), which was demonstrated on a mannequin.

"We're not going to jump-start Jerry," Tom said. "He's been through enough today."

But it was well worth it. The three-hour class was fun, fascinating and vital. And Tom was a great instructor.

"You were great, too," he said when the session was over. "In fact, when it comes to CPR, you're a real dummy."



When it comes to saving lives, Jerry Zezima used to be a dummy. Now he is a lifesaver.  
ROMAN MILERT/DREAMSTIME/TNS

### Personal Trainer

## Sport-specific interval exercises

*Some sports involve bursts of activity instead of long, continuous exertion, and "interval training" can help performance in them.*



### What is interval training?

Brief, relatively intense exercises done with brief resting periods in between

#### For soccer

- 1 Start at penalty box corner and run its length at 75% of normal running pace
- 2 Jump and head an imaginary ball at corner
- 3 Step sideways to next corner
- 4 Run third side of box backwards
- 5 Step sideways to first corner

Walk or jog in place for 1 minute, then repeat steps; do circuit five times, rest 3 minutes, then do another five



#### For tennis

- 1 Start at corner of court and step sideways along baseline to other corner
- 2 Run diagonally to opposite end of net at 75% of normal pace
- 3 Swing racket in imaginary forehand shot
- 4 Step sideways to other end of net
- 5 Run back to start at 75% of normal pace; swing racket in a backhand shot

Walk or jog in place for 1 minute, then repeat steps; do circuit five times, rest 3 minutes, then do another five

Source: Sport Fitness Advisor  
Graphic: Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation



Tan Siu Lin Foundation

# Triple J donates hole-in-one prize to Hyatt golf classic

Hyatt Regency Saipan 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic was presented with a generous in-kind donation from Triple J Motors of Triple J Saipan, Inc.

Triple J Motors donated a 2017 Mazda 6i Touring vehicle, the color to be revealed on the tournament date. For all golfers, this luxurious 2017 Mazda 6i Touring Sedan will be the prize at Hole 17 for that one lucky golfer at the LaoLao Bay west course.

Some features of the car are a rearview camera with a 7-inch full color touch screen; rear cross traffic alert; blind spot monitoring system and the advanced Mazda keyless entry.

Triple J Five Star will also donate Nathan's Hotdogs at Hole 10 for golfers to enjoy prior to finishing their course.

In the evening, at the dinner banquet, Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside, Triple J Five will also donate Certified Angus Beef Tri-Tip for golfers and their guests to enjoy. Entrance to the dinner banquet is \$35 per person accompanying a golfer. Guests are encouraged to join the dinner banquet and for the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win more amazing prizes. For more information call 234-1234 Ext 26.

For over 10 years, Triple J Saipan and Hyatt Regency Saipan have partnered in many charitable events.

"We are proud to be major sponsors for the upcoming charity golf classic whose proceeds enhance the community in more ways than one. We are especially proud to support the Make-a-Wish Foundation, one of the six nonprofit organizations benefiting from this amazing event," said Jay

Santos, Five Star Wholesale Foods and Triple J Truckload Store general manager. "We are also super excited to announce our Nathan's Hotdog tent is back for a second year and we have a treat in store for the banquet with fantastic Certified Angus Beef dishes prepared by executive chef Colombo and his culinary team at Hyatt Regency Saipan. So be sure to bring your appetites and guests for a good cause!"

Randy Steele, GM of Triple J Motors said, "We love participating in events that truly benefit our island community and with a little fun and excitement. Our hole-in-one prize, a 2017 Mazda 6i Touring vehicle...is a truly exciting reason to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic tournament! We're happy to support our good friends at Hyatt with this hole-in-one donation."

Triple J Enterprises first opened when Robert H. Jones signed a business agreement with his oldest brother, the late Kenneth T. Jones Jr. The

two purchased a franchise of Subaru on the island of Guam. Most wonder where the origin of the business name is from. It is the first initials of Robert and Margaret Jones' children: Jeff, Julie and Jay. By 2004, the Triple J Enterprise had an extremely large and diverse portfolio of businesses inclusive of wholesale food distribution in Guam, Saipan and the Marshall Islands; dealerships of brand name automobiles and supplies; real estate development and brokerage; and, world-famous restaurant chains. As the enterprise continues to expand, it supports the development and growth of the economy on Saipan.

All proceeds of the golf classic will go to the event's six beneficiaries to include: Make-A-Wish Foundation, Kagman High School Million Dollar Club, Marianas Behavioral Health International, Karidat, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

"Triple J and Hyatt Regency Saipan are long-time business partners. The extended support we receive from Triple J for our annual tournament is immeasurable. And, like all our sponsors, Triple J shares in

our mission to care for those within our community and understands this tournament is a vehicle in which we do so. Triple J has consistently delivered great hole-in-one prizes and provided the highest qual-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo; Triple J Motors sales associate Manny Salas; Five-Star Wholesale Foods and Triple J Truckload Store general manager Jay Santos; Triple J Saipan, Inc. marketing manager Iliana Pacheco; Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla; Triple J Motors sales associate Merci Canzado; Hyatt Regency Saipan F&B director Tyrell Pauling; Triple J Motors sales associate Shae Stovell; Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele.

ity food-items to our players on the course, and, especially at our poolside awards banquet," said Ty Pauling, director of Food and Beverage.

Hyatt Regency Saipan will hold its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic event at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course on April 22, 2017. For more information contact 234-1234 Ext. 26. (*Hyatt*)

## BoG's Dave Joves is WIB chair

**HAGATNA, GUAM**—During its annual conference on March 25-29 in Honolulu, the Western Independent Bankers elevated chair-elect Dave Joves to board chair.

The Western Independent Bankers, established in 1937, is the premier banking trade association comprising a network of 550 independent community banks in 13 western states whose goal is continuing quality education and valuable networking among its banking members.

Joves is regional manager for the Bank of Guam's California region, having joined the bank in 2011, following 14 years with Mission National Bank in San Francisco, four of



them as president, chief executive officer and director with the bank. He had previously served as chief financial officer of MNB. An alumnus of the University of California, Davis, Joves holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of San Francisco. He currently serves as Director and Secretary for the Association of Asian American Bankers. Joves has served as a director of Western Independent Bankers since 2015 and served as a director of Western Independent Bankers Service Corp. from 2008 to 2015, acting as chair from 2012-2013.

"I am honored and humbled," said Joves of his appointment. "WIB is an invaluable service to community bankers in the Western United States, and I look forward to serving the association as chairman. As our industry continues to evolve, it is especially exciting to align with an organization like WIB that not only forecasts these changes but delivers strategies for success unique to community banks."

Lou Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer and board chair stated, "We at Bank of Guam are deeply proud of Dave's appointment to prestigious WIB board chair, a reflection of our capacity as a bank to be a contributing and influential part of our industry." (*PR*)

## Family grief support meeting on April 6

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, April 6, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPA-SI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Com-



### HÅFA ADAI PLEDGE

StayWell Insurance joined the Håfa Adai Pledge program on Friday, March 31, 2017, at a ceremony at its Hagåtña office and held a special luncheon to close out its Mes Chamoru festivities. The program is a cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding campaign. From left, A.J. Rosario, Web and IT coordinator at GVB; Dafne Shimizu, vice president of finance at StayWell; Ana Cid, director of tourism research at GVB; Maria Taitano, vice president of administration at StayWell; Maureen Sablan, vice president of business development at StayWell; Nico Fujikawa, senior tourism research analyst at GVB; and Chris Lizama, contracts administrator at GVB.

GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

passionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatelfriends.org. (*PR*)

**FROM STONE MONEY TO STEM OLYMPIANS****Micronesian students head to int'l robotics contest**

The famously traditional island of stone money is sending top students to a high tech global robotics competition.

Students from 153 nations will gather in Washington, D.C. this summer for the international high school robotics Olympics. Few will have traveled as far—geographically or culturally—as the Robo League team from Yap.

The first Global Challenge is a worldwide robotics challenge. Small student teams design, build, and compete complex robots from simple parts. The work demands hands-on mastery of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills. Featuring teams from across the planet, it also serves as a forum for students to meet and partner with diverse international peers.

Students in Yap—a remote Micronesian island most famous for its stone money—established their own Robotics League in 2011, holding Micronesia's first public exhibition in summer of 2012. Organized by the U.S.-based non-government group “Habele,” the Yap Robo League remains the only coordinated multi-year robotics program



Team 1 of the Yap Catholic High School are winners of the 2016 Habele Robo League Championship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Micronesia are home to a semi cash economy, primarily comprised of subsistence agriculture and fishing. Their remoteness and relative lack of resources limits formal economic growth and opportunities. However, they place great emphasis on preserving cultural practices while learning modern technology. Widely studied in the West, Yapee stone money, or “rai,” are an example. The large, circular stone disks have been used for centuries as currency. The system relies on oral histories of ownership because the carved stones are too large to move.

One project to sustain traditional practices is “Waa’gey,” an after-school cultural skills program. Many Yap Robo League students participate, receiving instruction on-campus and after-school from Waa’gey mentors in centuries-old Carolinian carving and sailing techniques. “There are many connections between the techniques of canoe building and celestial navigation and the skills students develop with these robots,” said master navigator Larry Raigetal. “The outside world’s increasing focus on so-called STEM instruction is, for us, something of a return to the way we’ve always understood knowledge and building. I hope our young people take that insight with them to Washington.” (PR)

in the Central or Western Pacific. It has grown and thrived through a defining partnership

with a robotics team at Chaminade College Preparatory School, in Los Angeles, California.

In-kind gifts of time and talent, as well as private donations and local fundraisers entirely finance the league.

The all-star team headed to the first Global Challenge is composed of three high school seniors from Yap Catholic High School, winners of the 2016 Habele Robo League Championship. They will spend nearly a week in the US capital, participating in a lavish international opening ceremony, a series of robotics exhibitions, competitions, and eliminations, as well as tours and team building exercises with students from

around the world.

“Since 2011, hardworking students, educators, and community members have grown and sustained one of the Pacific’s most exceptional—and most popular—educational programs,” said Alex Sidles, a Habele director. “Invitation to the Global Challenge is just the latest testimony to the accomplishments and ambitions of the Yap Robo League, and its innovative focus on competition, incentives, and accountability.”

The many tiny islands of

**Marine debris contest for fishing derby participants**

Working to prevent marine debris on Saipan’s waters, the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance will again conduct a marine debris raffle draw in conjunction with the Annual Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby slated for Saturday, April 8, 2017.

The prize is \$300 in Jeten gift certificates, for one winner.

Raffle tickets are limited to

one for each individual qualifying fisherman who turns in marine debris.

This contest is only open to registered participants of the fishing derby. The drawing will be held at the awards ceremony, and ticket holders must be present to win. For more information, email MINA at minaoutreach@gmail.com or call 233-REEF. (PR)

**Daughter-in-law’s visits leave trail of petty theft**

**D**EAR ABBY: I can’t talk to anyone about this (including my husband) because they’ll think something’s wrong with me or I am making it up.

When my son and his wife come to visit or we visit them, there’s always something missing from my house or from my suitcase (when we visit them). When they visit, it’s always small items like a china teacup, a nut bowl or a figurine. After we return from a visit, there’s always a piece of costume jewelry or an item of clothing missing from my suitcase.

The items are always inexpensive. I never see these in their house, so I suspect she just takes them and throws them out. I don’t know what to do aside from confronting her, which will probably cause a rift with my son. I’ve mentioned it to my husband and he refuses to believe me! Is there something wrong with her? Please help. I don’t know how to handle this.

GOING NUTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR GOING NUTS:** Seeing is believing. Before your son and daughter-in-law’s next visit, consider setting up one or more security cameras around your home. If what you suspect proves to be true, your daughter-in-law may suffer from emotional problems that need to be addressed. And when you visit them, make sure to lock your belongings in your suitcase. If nothing else, that may give you peace of mind.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am recently separated. I just started seeing a guy who was also recently separated and who will soon be divorced. The problem is, he is my friend “Melissa’s” soon-to-be ex. They are breaking up because she cheated on him and left him for the other person.

He’s a great guy, and it’s too soon to tell if this could turn into an actual relationship. Melissa isn’t a best friend of mine, but she’s more than just an acquaintance. Should I pursue this or stop now?

CONFUSED IN BROOKLYN

**DEAR CONFUSED:** When it comes to rebound romances, I advise to proceed with caution, so you don’t get hurt. If you like this man, be a supportive friend to him for now. If the relationship develops into something more serious from there, so be it. You didn’t cause the divorce, Melissa did, and you shouldn’t be blamed.

**DEAR ABBY:** When restaurant hosts/hostesses decide where to seat patrons, I wish they would consider their mobility. Many times I have accompanied mobility-impaired family members and friends, and the host didn’t consider the distance to the table. I understand that restaurant hosts try to balance the number of tables for the wait staff, but surely they can also consider the

**DEAR ABBY**

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



occasional patron who would greatly appreciate a shorter walk to their table.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED PATRON

**DEAR PATRON:** Restaurant hosts are not dictators, nor are they mind readers. If you or someone you are with has a disability that must be accommodated, inform the host and request a table that suits your needs. If the establishment values your patronage, the employees will be happy to comply.

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*



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Saipan Tribune

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Clinical Embryologist**  
Must have 2 years lab experience, plus experience in clinical embryology.  
Salary Negotiable.  
Call Karen at 322-0419

**Okada Corporation  
dba Okadaya**  
Paseo De Marianas Garapan, Saipan

Okada Corporation is in need of the following:

- **OPERATION MANAGER** \$7.50-\$8.50
- **HEAD CHEF - \$7.50-\$8.50**
- **COOK - \$6.55**
- **SERVICE CREW - \$6.55**

Be able to handle business operations as well as kitchen duties to ensure the business efficiency & profitable operations. Must be passionate about food and have broad knowledge in Japanese cuisine included but not limited to Sushi, Tempura and Sashimi and specialty in making Hand Made Soba from the powder as well as other cultural dishes and different food preparations.

(Must have at least 5 yrs experience for operation manager). Must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standard. Can speak and understand Japanese. Have knowledge in Japanese products.

All applicants must provide, must have a reliable transportation, and must agree to drug test. If interested please contact by email to okadaya@saipan@gmail.com

**Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 502478,  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 288-0566  
Fax: (670) 234-2618

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Medical Equipment Repairer:** This position requires working in the acute health care environment assisting in maintain and repairing wide variety of systems including but not limited to oxygen enrichment systems, reverse osmosis, medical vacuum, medical compressed air, life safety systems and general biomedical/dental equipments. Individual will work under close supervision of Biomedical Service Engineer and must possess basic knowledge of Electronics or Electricity.

**Maintenance Worker:** He/she will be responsible to maintaining building and grounds of company property and office. Not limited to plumbing, repairs around office, work space of clients and warehouse, supervises landscaping work and maintains inventory at warehouse. Also general duties of deliver/pickup of supplies and performs duties as assigned.

**PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING AGENCY**  
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) General Maintenance  
(3) Commercial Cleaners  
Must have 5 years experience.  
Please send resume to PO Box 502670  
Koblerville, Saipan MP, 96950  
E-mail: hectorsablan@yahoo.com

**AB ENTERPRISE**  
**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**(1) MASON**  
MINIMUM SALARY  
IF INTERESTED, PLS. CALL LOUIE BASIL  
AT 785-0462

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
AM MACHINE SHOP & CAR AIRCONDITIONING

(1) Mechanic  
At least 3 years experience in Mechanic Job, Knowledgeable in Repairing Car Knowledgeable in Car Airconditioning Contact No. 323-0102 Contact Person: Adonis Santos

**Danes Construction Corporation**

is looking for the following:

- (9) Carpenter
- (15) Mason
- (1) Accounting Technician
- (1) Computer Support Technician

Must have 5 years experience & maybe subject for a skill test. Interested applicants may send their application to danes@guam.net

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper  
**CALL 235-NEWS**

**JAR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION**

Now accepts application for

- (2) Mason**
- (2) Carpenter**
- (1) Painter**

Applicants must have at least 5 years experience in the construction field. Has a good moral character, skilled and can follow work assignment without supervision, can work independently in a flexible time. Qualified applicants may submit application with resume and credential to Jar Design and Construction P.O. Box 504249 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

**GPPC, INC. Job Opening:**

**Civil Engineering Technicians (02)** \$6.60/hr. - \$7.50/hour. Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2- years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists

**Heavy Equipment Mechanic (2)** \$6.60 - \$7.50/hour Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, Inc. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: April 04, 2017

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**HEALTH PLAN COORDINATOR**

- Five (5) or more years of actual health insurance experience and/or medical background responsible for the administration, operations and marketing of a health insurance business.
- Experience in customer service by assisting members with medical and dental issues.
- Experience and understanding of medical claims processing and adjudication.
- Experience in conducting underwriting review analysis for small and large group business.
- Experience in handling medical provider issues related to contractual agreements, benefits, claims and fee schedule reimbursement.
- Experience in negotiating provider agreements with medical providers
- Strong written communication skills and the ability to work independently
- Strong computer skills with strong organizational time management skills
- Must possess strong negotiation skills with both commercial clients and medical providers
- Capable of compiling and submitting weekly, monthly and annual production reports for management review.
- Nursing Degree and/or medical background and experience is preferred but not necessary.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:**

All applicants will be considered solely on the basis of qualifications and ability, as the company does not unlawfully discriminate from consideration for employment on a basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, national origin, disability or handicap, veteran status, or any other protected status under applicable local and federal laws.

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# Gonzaga vs North Carolina in NCAA title game

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Their star guard was outstanding. Their big men dominated inside. Still, it came down to some last-second strategy for Gonzaga to move on to the NCAA Tournament championship game for the first time.

Nigel Williams-Goss scored 23 points, Gonzaga's big men combined for 27 and the Bulldogs kept South Carolina from taking a game-tying shot in a 77-73 victory Saturday night in a matchup of first-time teams at the Final Four.

"Just an awesome, awesome basketball game, with just how hard both teams competed," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "It took everything we had to hold them off and come back."

The Bulldogs' 7-footers, senior Przemek Karnowski and freshman Zach Collins, took care of things on both ends of the court, combining for 18 rebounds. Collins also had a career-high six blocks.

"That's my job is to go in and rim protect," said Collins, who had 14 points and 13 rebounds. "I had four fouls today. But I thought, you know, getting those blocked shots would help us."

Gonzaga (37-1), the top seed in the West Regional, will face North Carolina, the top seed in the South, for the title on Monday night.

"To be playing the last game of the year, that's crazy cool," Few said.

Williams-Goss missed a shot with 12.7 seconds left and South Carolina rebounded and called a timeout, trailing 75-72. South Carolina passed the ball around and Gonzaga fouled Sindarius Thornwell before he could shoot with 3.5 seconds left. Thornwell made the first free throw and missed the second on purpose in hopes of his teammates grabbing an offensive rebound. Killian Tillie rebounded for Gonzaga, was fouled and made two free throws to cement the game.

"We had been practicing it all year and we always want to foul under 6 (seconds)," Few said. "Josh Perkins did a job being really patient and not fouling on the shot. The second part is you've got to get the rebound, and that's what's been difficult for us at times. They executed great."

Thornwell said the idea was to get in position for one last quick shot.

"The plan was to miss it left and hopefully Chris (Silva) could tap it out to somebody," he said.

Williams-Goss, a second-team All-American, led the Bulldogs to a 14-point lead in the second half but it



AP

Gonzaga's Przemek Karnowski (24) dunks over South Carolina's Sindarius Thornwell (0) during the second half in the semifinals of the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Saturday, April 1, 2017, in Glendale, Ariz.

more important than the last. It secured a Monday-night date with Gonzaga in the title game, where the Tar Heels (32-7) will go for the program's sixth title.

"If it wasn't for Kennedy Meeks, we wouldn't have been in the basketball game," Carolina coach Roy Williams said.

Meeks had plenty to mop up for.

The rest of his team shot a brick-a-minute 14 for 55 from the floor (25 percent). Justin Jackson was one of the few to break through. He had 22 points on 6-for-13 shooting, including a five-minute stretch with three 3-pointers and two free throws that helped the Heels to a double-digit lead and put them on the verge of a runaway midway through the second half.

Given the lead and Oregon's own awful shooting (37 percent), losing this one might have felt every bit as bad as the Villanova loss last year. This is, after all, a team on a mission with only one acceptable destination

## Hall of Fame coach against future Hall of Famer in finals

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Roy Williams has been here before. Just last year, in fact. And five times altogether, playing for the NCAA championship. Twice he got to celebrate winning the final game of the season with the Tar Heels, pushing their total to five tournament titles.

For Mark Few and Gonzaga, this is all new. Just getting to the Final Four was a first, and now they are one victory from lifting the trophy.

If it came down to history, tradition and experience, North Carolina would run away with Monday's NCAA championship game. If only it were that easy for the Tar Heels.

"You know, on game night, kids got to play. That's the bottom line," Williams said Saturday night after the Tar Heels beat Oregon 77-76. "I've never won a game from the bench. I may have lost some, but I know I've never won one."

Kennedy Meeks saved the game. No surprise there, either.

Meeks,

the only Tar Heel who could shoot straight Saturday night, muscled away the game-saving offensive rebound in a 77-76 victory over Oregon after ice-cold Carolina missed its fourth straight free throw down the stretch.

All part of a career night for the North Carolina senior, who was on the bench in last year's championship game when Villanova devastatingly ended the Tar Heels' chance at a title with a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

In this one, Meeks was front and center. He finished 11 for 13 to match his career high with 25 points. And he had 14 rebounds, eight of which came on the offensive glass and none of which was

program was good enough to really be considered among the best in the country.

Those should be gone now and if there are any lingering doubters, the Bulldogs can take care of that on Monday by beating one of the bluest of college basketball's blue bloods. This is North Carolina's record 20th Final Four.

"I know Gonzaga, they don't have the history that we do. But they've only lost one game this year. They're a pretty good team," North Carolina guard Joel Berry II said. "While the history matters to show how great your program is, at the same time it doesn't because you got to play that game on Monday."

For years Williams was the coach who couldn't win the big one. During his time at Kansas, Williams made it to the Final Four four times but never won one. He left for North Carolina, his alma mater where he played and worked as an assistant for Dean Smith.

Williams shook that label in his second season at North Carolina, winning it all in 2004-05 and then came back with another title in 2008-09. A gut-wrenching loss to Villanova in a championship game classic last year denied Williams a third career title. Now he will get another chance to pass his mentor, Smith (who won two) and become just the sixth coach with at least three NCAA championships on his resume.

"I'm coaching a new group of kids," Williams said. "And making it back to the national championship game is amazing. Oh, you did that last year? Well, that still makes it even more amazing kind of thing."



disappeared quickly as the Gamecocks (26-11) went on a 14-point run to grab a 67-65 lead with about 7 minutes to play.

"When things got tough we banded together and pulled through," said Williams-Goss, who had six assists and a brief injury scare after turning an ankle underneath the basket.

"There was no way I was going to come out of the game. This is the last two games of the season," Williams-Goss said. "Now we're 40 minutes from a championship."

Collins and Karnowski then accounted for the next 7 points, including a 3-pointer by Collins and a thundering dunk by Karnowski.

South Carolina still wasn't done. The seventh-seeded Gamecocks scored 5 straight to get within 74-72 with just over 2 minutes left.

"Since the beginning of the

season that's what we worked for, moments like this," Silva said. "And we try to do our best to respond the way we learn how to respond."

PJ Dozier led the Gamecocks with 17 points and Thornwell, the leading scorer in the NCAA Tournament at 25.8 points per game during the first four rounds, finished with 15 on 4-for-12 shooting after starting slow.

"They just crowd the paint," Thornwell said. "They forced me to pass it out on my drives. And just protecting the rim real well."

Karnowski went down on the court in the first half after being poked in the right eye as he took a shot underneath the basket. He left for the last 5 minutes of the half, but Collins picked him up, finishing with 8 points at halftime.

"I got blocked but he just put the finger in my eye," Karnowski said. "I had blurry vision, a little bit shadow. I

# Woods decides to sit out another Masters

**AUGUSTA** (AP)—Tiger Woods won't play in the Masters for the third time in the last four years, announcing last weekend on his website that rehabilitation on his back didn't allow him enough time to prepare.

"I did about everything I could to play, but my back rehabilitation didn't allow me the time to get tournament ready," Woods said on his website.

He still plans to be at Augusta National, but only for dinner with past Masters champions on Tuesday night, just like last year.

Augusta National checked on Woods' status Thursday before sending out its press conference schedule for Masters week. Woods did not know if he could play, so the club held onto his 1 p.m. Tuesday spot just in case.

Woods missed the Masters for the first time in 2014 because of the first of what would be three surgeries on his back. He played in 2015 despite taking off two months with chipping problems, and he tied for 17th.

He missed the cut in the other three majors that year, had two more back surgeries and missed 15 months of competition to let it heal. But after an upbeat return in the Bahamas at his unofficial Hero World Challenge, Woods curiously signed up for four tournaments in a five-week stretch,



including going to Dubai.

He missed the cut at Torrey Pines, a place where he has won eight times as a pro. And after a 77 in easy conditions at Dubai in early February, he withdrew the next day, citing back spasms. Woods also cited back spasms for withdrawing from his own tournament at Riviera—he even withdrew

from a press conference at the Genesis Open, which supports his foundation -- and from the Honda Classic.

Woods also missed the Arnold Palmer Invitational. And now the wait continues for Woods, once

golf's dominant force, now its biggest mystery.

"I think injury has a lot to do with it, but the injury is not just his body, but his mind," Jack Nicklaus said in an interview last month.

"Mentally, I think he's had a hard time

with what's happened, because every time he turns around, he hurts himself," Nicklaus said. "And instead he's saying, 'When am I going to get over this?' ... He may physically be hurt. You guys don't know. I don't know. I really don't have an answer. I just know that the guy looks great, talks great, mentally he sounds sharp. So



## Clippers beat Lakers for Doc Rivers' 800th victory



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Comfortable leads have been shrinking lately for the Los Angeles Clippers.

It happened again Saturday against the lowly Lakers.

Only after the Clippers inserted all of their starters in the fourth quarter did they finish off a 115-104 victory, the 800th of Doc Rivers' coaching career.

Rivers sees the problem, yet professes no concern with the playoffs looming.

"I like this team and I'm going to keep saying that," he said. "I think we have proven, especially in the big games, when we're healthy, we play very well."

Blake Griffin scored 36 points, Chris Paul added 29 and J.J. Redick had 19 for the Clippers, who moved within a game of the idle Jazz for the No. 4 playoff seed in the West. The Clippers have won three in a row and seven of nine.

"Our key is going to be in the last six minutes of the game," Rivers said. "We're going to have to execute of-

fensively. We're going to have to be a team that when we need a stop, we can get a stop. There's times that we can do that and then there's times I'm not sure we can."

The Clippers have had little trouble stopping the Lakers, taking three of four in the season series. They've won 18 of 20 from their Staples Center co-tenant since the start of the 2012-13 season.

"The last few years have been the worst in the Lakers' history and that's not OK," rookie coach Luke Walton said before the game.

Rookie David Nwaba scored 19 points and Brandon Ingram had 10 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter for the Lakers. They have lost 18 of 20 since the All-Star break. D'Angelo Russell, the team's leading scorer at 15.7 points, had two points on 1-of-9 shooting while missing six 3-point attempts.

"They definitely came out with energy. They were hot and our defense wasn't clicking," Russell said. "I tried to stay effective despite my shots not falling."

The Clippers' bench allowed the Lakers to hang around in the fourth when they trailed by 21 at the start. Tarik Black's dunk cut the Lakers' deficit to eight with 2:52 to play.

But Griffin and Paul combined to score the Clippers' final seven points. The duo notched its third straight game with at least 26 points apiece.

"It's not about the second unit, it is about us as a team figuring it out," Paul said. "We still have time, not much time, but we have time to figure it out and we have to do it."

The Clippers dominated the third, turning a five-point lead into a 21-point advantage. They opened on a 24-9 run, including 10 by Paul that extended their lead to 79-59. Griffin and Redick added back-to-back 3-pointers and Paul scored four in a row to send the Clippers into the fourth leading 93-72.

### Bulls 106, Hawks 104

In Chicago, Jimmy Butler scored 33 points and hit two free throws with 2.1 seconds left to lift the Chicago Bulls to a victory over the Atlanta

Hawks.

Butler scored the Bulls' final nine points. His free throws gave the Bulls a two-point lead and capped a 15-4 run.

Tim Hardaway Jr. then missed a 3-pointer for Atlanta as time expired, giving the Bulls their third straight win. That put them in a tie with Miami and Indiana for the final two playoff spots in the Eastern Conference. The sixth-place Hawks, who had won two straight after dropping seven in a row, trail Milwaukee by a game.

Rajon Rondo had a season-high 25 points and added 11 rebounds. Denzel Valentine scored 13 points as the Bulls stopped a seven-game losing streak to Atlanta.

### Trail Blazers 130, Suns 117

In Portland, Damian Lillard scored 31 points and Portland continued its late-season push for the playoffs with a sixth straight victory, beating Phoenix.

CJ McCollum added 29 points for Portland, which holds the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. The Blazers (38-38) led

by as many as 25 points and got back to .500 for the first time since they were 12-12 on Dec. 9.

Devin Booker had 31 for the Suns, who lost their 11th straight for the fifth-longest losing streak in franchise history. The Suns were just ahead of the Lakers at the bottom of the Western Conference.

The Blazers were playing their first game without Jusuf Nurkic since announcing that he had a fractured right leg and will miss the rest of the regular season.

### Nets 121, Magic 111

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 30 points, Trevor Booker had a season-high 23 and Brooklyn beat Orlando.

Sean Kilpatrick added 15 points for the Nets, who snapped a two-game losing streak. Brooklyn had a season-high 72 points in the paint.

Elfrid Payton had 20 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds for his fifth triple-double of the season for Orlando, which has lost four straight games. Nikola Vucevic had 27 points and 11 rebounds, while Aaron Gordon finished with 22 points and 15 boards.

In this Feb. 2, 2017, file photo, Tiger Woods reacts on the 11th hole during the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Woods won't play in the Masters for the third time in the last four years, announcing Friday night, March 31, 2017, on his website that rehabilitation on his back didn't allow him enough time to get ready.

what's happening?"

Woods said there was no timetable for a return to competition.

"But I will continue my diligent effort to recover, and want to get back out there as soon as possible," he said.

Woods has signed endorsement deals over the last four months with Monster Energy (on his golf bag), and equipment deals to play with TaylorMade clubs and Bridgestone golf balls. He still has an apparel contract with Nike.

Woods said he was particularly disappointed because this is the 20-year anniversary of his first victory at the Masters, a record-shattering, game-changing, 12-shot victory at age 21.

He was in New York last week to promote a book he wrote about the 1997 Masters.

Woods won the Masters four times, most recently in 2005 in a playoff over Chris DiMarco. The Masters remains the only major where he has never missed the cut as a pro.

Brooklyn opened the fourth quarter on an 11-0 run to take a 100-89 lead and never looked back.

### Kings 123, Timberwolves 117

In Minneapolis, Buddy Hield tied a career high with 22 points, going 4 of 6 from 3-point range, and Sacramento got 66 points from its bench in a victory over Minnesota.

Reserve point guard Ty Lawson had 21 points and 11 assists. Langston Galloway added 17 points and Aaron Afflalo scored 16 off the bench as the Kings recovered after losing by 28 points a night earlier at New Orleans against former Sacramento star DeMarcus Cousins.

Playing its fifth game in seven nights, Sacramento shot a season-high 56.4 percent to win for the sixth time in 15 games since trading Cousins on Feb. 21.

Andrew Wiggins scored 32 points for Minnesota, which had won five of its previous six home games. A game after scoring a career-high 33 points, Ricky Rubio had 11 points on just 1-of-10 shooting, and added 13 assists.

# Mattingly, Marlins set for Volquez to start opener vs Nats

**JUPITER, Fla.** (AP)—Miami manager Don Mattingly has a simple goal for his starting rotation in 2017.

"You ask them to keep you in games and give us a chance to win that night," Mattingly said.

The death of Jose Fernandez in a boating accident last September left the Marlins with a huge hole to fill in that rotation.

Miami signed Edinson Volquez and traded for Dan Straily, both righties, during the offseason. They will make the first two starts of the season for Miami at Washington next week.

Mattingly tabbed Volquez, entering his 13th big league season, for the opening day start because of his experience.

"He's been through a lot," Mattingly said. "That day is kind of weird. There's a lot go-



Detroit Tigers center fielder Mikie Mahtook (15) crashes into the wall after making a leaping attempt for a ball hit for a double by Miami Marlins' Christian Yelich during the first inning of a spring training baseball game Friday, March 31, 2017, in Jupiter, Fla. AP

major league seasons, with 14 of those wins coming last year for Cincinnati.

Tom Koehler is slotted third in the rotation. He threw three innings of relief for Miami in Saturday's Grapefruit League finale against Detroit, allowing one run on four hits.

Koehler piggy-backed on Wei-Yin Chen's Saturday start. Chen, last year's opening day starter for Miami, gets the fourth start, when the Marlins travel to the New York Mets on Friday.

Against Detroit Chen allowed his first earned run of the spring that didn't come via a solo home run. Chen surrendered only that one run on four hits and two walks in three innings against the Tigers.

"There's still some little things I need to work more but overall I think I'm ready for the season," Chen said through a translator.

Meanwhile, Ashley Dangol and Juhn Tenorio also contributed to Tsunami Saipan's record haul as the former got five age group marks and the latter made one.

Dangol's 35.62 seconds in the 50m backstroke surpassed the 35.77 she tallied just last Feb. 18 this year, while her four other marks in the 9 to 10 age group all broke the records of her former teammate Miku Tammy. In the 100m backstroke, Dangol clocked in at 1:18.60 to beat the 1:19.10 Tammy recorded on March 23, 2013. In the 50m butterfly, the 10-year-old checked in at 32.27 seconds, which is better than the 33.04 of Tammy (March 23, 2013), while in the 100m butterfly, Dangol's 1:15.48 was more than a second ahead of the latter's mark (1:16.77/ March 22, 2013). In the 200m butterfly, Dangol chopped off nearly three seconds from Tammy's record, (2:52.64) after posting 2:49.81.

Juhn Tenorio, on the other hand, earned an age group mark (11 to 12) in the 200m backstroke as his 2:37.61 broke the 2:39.48 Kaito Yanai registered on April 13, 2012.

With his impressive eight swim marks in a single tournament, Aleksenko now holds 10 of the 15 records in the 9 to 10 age groups. He also owns the 400m (5:08.50) and 800m (10:34.52) freestyle marks in the division. Kaito Yanai and SSC's Kento Akimaru are the other record holders in the group.

Tling Shirley's 2 this Friday, while Sunday's pairings include Sun Palace vs Kanoa; Matansa vs Shirley's 1, and KFAS vs IFC-Thundercats.

Both Division 2 and 1 opted to have an 8 vs 8 game due to the size of the Hopwood pitches. M-League matches used to be 11 a side when teams played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The Oleai pitch is still undergoing repairs, which is tentatively scheduled to be complete mid May. M-League also started the spring season late due to the unavailability of the Oleai pitch.

## Medals for 2020 Tokyo Olympics to be made of recycled metal

**TOKYO** (AP)—Organizers of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics have begun collecting discarded electronic devices that will be used in the production of the medals to be awarded to athletes.

Japanese Olympic swimmer Takeshi Matsuda and Paralympian Takuro Yamada attended a ceremony in downtown Tokyo on Saturday to kick off the campaign.

"It's a great project that turns your old unused phones into athletes' treasured medals," said four-time Olympic swimming medalist Matsuda. "I'm glad that by participating in this proj-



ect, anyone can take part in the Games."

The organizing committee aims to collect eight tons of raw metal which will yield around two tons of pure metal, enough to produce 5,000 medals for the Tokyo Games.

Citizens are being asked to donate unwanted and obsolete electronic devices including smartphones, digital cameras and laptops.

Collection boxes have been set up throughout the country. The collection will end in the

spring of 2019 or as soon as the eight-ton target is reached.

Meanwhile, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko has accused the head of the International Paralympic Committee of being "completely dishonest" on doping issues.

The IPC barred the entire Russian team from the Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro after World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren accused Russia of a state-backed doping program, in-

cluding in disability sport.

Mutko tells Russian agency R-Sport that IPC head Philip Craven is "someone who's completely dishonest on these issues." Mutko also accused him of "craftiness" in imposing a blanket ban, and said the IPC hadn't adequately explained why most Russian Paralympians shouldn't be allowed to compete.

Russia remains banned, though talks are continuing about anti-doping reforms which could allow Russia to compete at the Winter Paralympics in South Korea next year.

Fortunately, referees and game officials stepped in quickly, preventing further fight and when the tension subsided, seven players were ejected from the game. TanHoldings' Paul Quizon, Jarett Matsutaro and Dindo Pablo were thrown out for leaving the bench, while Leroi Pagaraao was also removed from the playing court for an unsportsmanlike conduct (confronting a spectator). As for Mariana Resort's side, Masaaki Kitani and J.R. Lifoifoi were also ejected for entering the playing court, while Fidelino joined them in the showers for committing a flagrant foul on Esdrelon.

Esdrelon made the two charities to up their lead to 8, 97-89, down to the last 1:23 of the intense series opener. Esdrelon and company then used the clock to their advantage, while Mariana Resort tried to rally back after scoring 5 straight points off Frank Lifoifoi's layup and Prince's Factor's triple. However, Mariana Resort run out of time,

as Factor knocked in the trey with just two seconds left and no one from his teammates bother to contest TanHoldings' inbound play in the dying seconds of Game 1.

With the come-from-behind victory, TanHoldings has a chance to close the short series tonight in Game 2, which will be played at 8pm after the third place battle between Best Deal/RNV Construction and McDonald's.

TanHoldings, however, will play Game 2 without Quizon, Matsutaro, Pablo, and Pagaraao, who were suspended for one match. Also sitting out Game 2 are Fidelino, J.R. Lifoifoi, and Kitani.

League commissioner Marlon Sison explained that the suspension was based on the tournament ground rules on players ejected and charged with unsportsmanlike conduct. Sison added that game officials will be calling it tighter for tonight's match to avoid the same incident. He also appealed to both teams and their supporters to keep their cool.

Schmidt is expected to carry the cudgels anew for his team after scoring 44 points in Game 1. Schmidt missed the opening minutes of the series opener and came in only under the seven minute mark of the first quarter with Mariana Resort ahead, 6-0.

He announced his presence in the game by sinking a triple and he went on to do most of the damage for TanHoldings, helping his squad claw back from a double-digit deficit.

Pagarao backed up Schmidt with his 21 points, while the suspended Fidelino led Mariana Resort with his 25 markers.

**TanHoldings 97** — Schmidt 44, Pagarao 21, Esdrelon 11, Nonato 10, Demapan 5, Matsutaro 2.

**Mariana Resort 94** — Fidelino 25, Sakisat 16, Factor 14, F. Lifoifoi 11, Prado 8, J. Lifoifoi 8, Kitani 6, Arthur 2, Kani 2, Ermitanio 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-28, 40-47, 63-71, 97-94.

## RECORD

*From Page 28*

the 1.06.93 of Suzuki, while the former's 2:22.42 was more than two seconds faster than the 2:24.51 of the latter.

In the 50m butterfly, Aleksenko checked in at 33.62 seconds to beat the 33.99 seconds that former Tsunami Saipan swimmer Kaito Yanai established on Feb. 20, 2010. Another Yanai record fell when Aleksenko submitted 1:14.37 in the 100m butterfly to top the former's 1:16.96 posted on May 22, 2010. In the 200m butterfly, Aleksenko slipped past the record of Kaito's brother, Ryuto, after clocking in at 2:44.17. Ryuto's record earned on May 3, 2014 read at 2:56.86.

For his last two age group marks, Aleksenko logged 35.76 seconds in the 50m backstroke to reset his own record (37.29 seconds/Feb. 18, 2017), while in the 100m backstroke, the Tsunami Saipan swimmer registered 1:19.27—more than a second better than the 1:21.96 Lukas Kang, also of Tsunami Saipan, established on Jan. 21, 2012.

With his impressive eight swim marks in a single tournament, Aleksenko now holds 10 of the 15 records in the 9 to 10 age groups. He also owns the 400m (5:08.50) and 800m (10:34.52) freestyle marks in the division. Kaito Yanai and SSC's Kento Akimaru are the other record holders in the group.

## M-LEAGUE

*From Page 28*

squads will play for 10 weeks.

For Week 2, the pairings are Sun Palace vs Kanoa; Paire-HR vs MP United; and TanHoldings vs NMI U16, while on April 16 there will be no games in observance of Easter Sunday. The last batch of matches in Division 1 is set for June 18.

In Division 2, teams will play for 14 weeks, with the season concluding on July 16. The second week of matches (April 8 and 9) will have the Women's National Team bat-

# 3rd Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding and Physique Competition

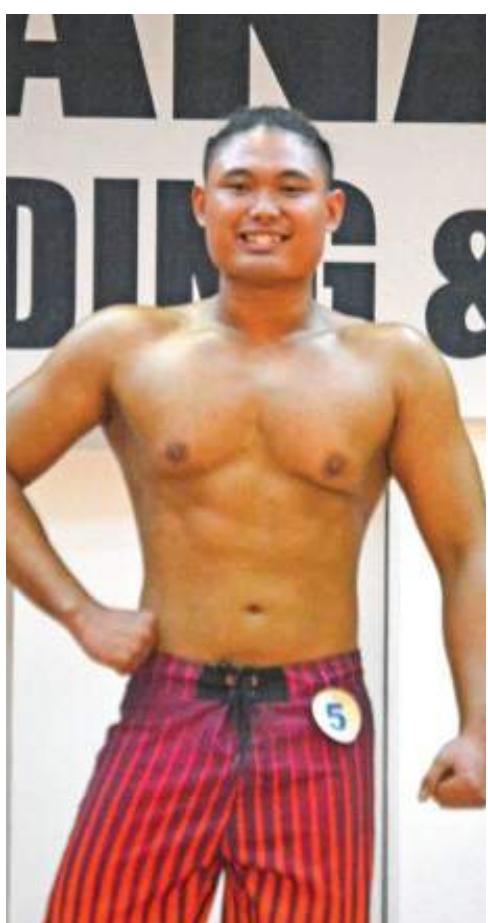
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The contestants and judges in the 3rd Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding and Physique Competition pose for a photo at the conclusion of the tournament late last month at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.



Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation president John Davis, center, congratulates junior physique winner Evan Belcher, fourth left.



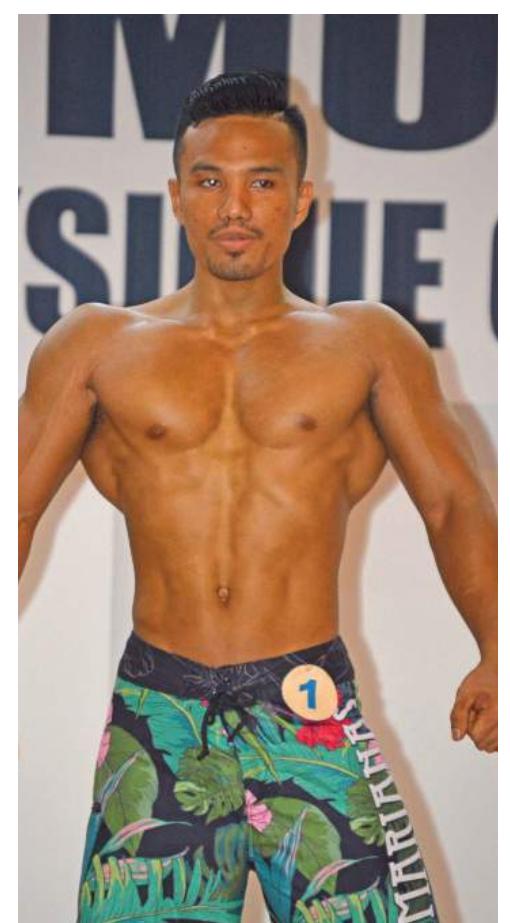
Sean Japor strikes a pose for the judges.



Vincent Aldan pose for a photo before heading to the backstage.



Evan Belcher smiles as he poses for the judges one last time.



Enrico Valdez shows the form that won him the men's physique title.



Kodin Diaz, left, and Nathan Nogis pose for the judges.



Women's physique champion Jennifer Choi, third left, is joined in the photo by judges Dee Clayton, Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation president John Davis, and Jocelyn Itibus.



**Gonzaga vs  
North Carolina  
in NCAA title  
game**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Woods  
decides to sit  
out another  
Masters**

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**28** MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# TanHoldings inches closer to title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**anHoldings is one win away from taking the championship in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League following a 97-94 victory against Mariana Resort in Game 1 of their title series that was marred by a bench-clearing scuffle last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

TanHoldings stole Game 1 despite falling behind by as much as 13 in the first quarter, 13-26, and 10 midway in the final canto after Mariana Resort collapsed in the homestretch. Mariana Resort was still



enjoying a double-digit lead, 84-74, after Frank Lifoifoi made a point-blanked shot with still 5:37 left on the clock when Douglas Schmidt anchored TanHoldings' backbreaking 15-3 run in the next two minutes and change. Schmidt

started the rally with a triple and he went on to score 13 of TanHoldings' points in that surge with his pair of free throws putting his team on top for the first time, 89-87. R.J. Nonato tallied the 2 oth-

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## M-League opens spring season



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M - L e a g u e** kicked off its spring season over the weekend with seven games scheduled at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. The Women's National Team and Kanoa played in the opening match last Friday and results of their Division 2 duel along with the three other games in their group were unavailable at press time. Eight teams are entered in Division 2 with Shirley's 1 and 2, Sun Palace, Matansa, Independents FC-Thundercats, and Korean Football Association on Saipan completing the field.

Shirley's 1 was set to challenge KFAS in the 1:30pm match yesterday, while Sun Palace and IFC-Thundercats

were scheduled to slug it out in the second game at 2:45pm. In the third and final match last Sunday, Shirley's 2 was

slated to face Matansa at 4pm.

Division 1 had the same schedule yesterday and matches were played on the other field. In the first game, it was MP United against Sun Palace, while Kanoa was pitted against NMI U16 in the second tiff. In the third game Paire Football Club-Hawaiian Rock was to square off against TanHoldings.

Division 1 has only six teams and the participating

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
TANHOLDINGS' R.J. Nonato unloads a shot against Mariana Resort's Jun Fidelino, right, and J.R. Lifoifoi during the second quarter of Game 1 of their title series in the JEM/Mobil caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
TANHOLDINGS' R.J. Nonato unloads a shot against Mariana Resort's Jun Fidelino, right, and J.R. Lifoifoi during the second quarter of Game 1 of their title series in the JEM/Mobil caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## Record rush for Tsunami Saipan swimmers



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan made a milestone during the 2017 Saipan Swim Club International Meet after setting 14 age group records in last month's competition at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The swim marks was the most by Tsunami Saipan in one tournament since the club was formed in 2007.

Isaiah Alekseko led Tsunami Saipan's record rush, as he earned eight marks in the boys 9 to 10 age group. The 10 year-old

**Tsunami**  
SAIPAN

swimmer posted three records each in freestyle and butterfly and two in backstroke events.

In the 50m freestyle, Alekseko timed in at 30.58 seconds, eclipsing his own mark (30.68 seconds) registered on Oct. 1, 2016. His two other records in freestyle also surpassed the best times made on Oct. 1 last year by Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki. Alekenko's 1:06.20 in the 100m freestyle crushed

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Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Alekseko competes in the 100m backstroke event in the 2017 Saipan Swim Club International Meet held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.